



# BedaBoys Bulletin

June 2020 Edition



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# President's Welcome



Dear All,

Welcome to the June edition of the BedaBoys Bulletin, and greetings from all involved with the St Bede's Old Collegians Association. It is hard to believe it is already six months since I wrote the December 2019 report in which I detailed the many exciting initiatives and activities we had planned for the beginning of this year. None of us however could have possibly have predicted how events would unfold in 2020, and the social challenges we all currently face as a community are indeed unprecedented.

On behalf of SBOCA I must wholeheartedly acknowledge and congratulate the Principal, Mr John Finn, the College Leadership team, the Pastoral team, and all the staff of the College for their outstanding efforts guiding, supporting, and encouraging all the students and families associated with the School. We all applaud their unwavering diligence in maintaining the highest standards of education for all the boys during this dynamic and potentially unsettling time. Their collective and untiring efforts truly reflect a commitment to the Lasallian tradition.

Although your Committee remains active behind the scenes, alas due to COVID 19 restrictions there is little to report with respect to the scheduled 2020 SBOCA activities. Unfortunately the scheduled Uni Coffee Mornings; planned Coffee Catch-up events; the 1, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50+ year Reunions and the 2020 Annual Dinner have all been postponed due to the necessary social-distancing requirements.

A final decision on the Annual Finian Foundation Charity Breakfast and Golf Day fundraiser in October is pending, and I encourage you all to keep an eye on the SBOCA website (to download the St Bede's Old Collegians App click on the "School App" icon on the main page of the College website [www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au) for updates as we attempt to reschedule these important events in

coming months.

In closing, I want to confirm that the SBOCA is dedicated to serving all the Old Collegians, and indeed the entire St Bede's College community so please do not hesitate to contact anyone in the Committee if you feel we can provide assistance or any help during this unusual time.

This challenging period will no doubt pass, but in the meantime I'd like to leave you with a thought that I find comforting. Always remember that the sky has to get really dark before you can appreciate the beauty of the stars.

I sincerely look forward to continuing to work with and for you in 2020 as we jointly continue to build the Old Collegians community in service of the College in the Lasallian tradition - Per Vias Rectas.

Sincerely,  
Jason

**Dr Jason Smythe**  
SBOCA President



# A Word from the Principal



## College Theme

The theme for 2020 has been, Be a light for the world. The graphic accompanying this theme is given below:



The theme is taken from the gospel of Matthew that states, .."let your light so shine". This speaks of a vibrant and practical demonstration of Christian works in action through the everyday interactions we have with others. The graphic arose from student ideas on representing the theme in a visual manner and has been used well throughout the year to date.

## Student Retention and Pathways

We began 2020 with 1587 students on-site. This figure is significant for two reasons. Firstly, it is the largest number of students we have ever experienced and secondly, it speaks to a very high retention rate. Given that Years 7-9 are a predictable number, the increase in students is coming from senior levels. We have the aim of all boys completing a Year 12 equivalent certification, no matter what their interest or talent and are proud of our ability to offer multiple pathways.

## COVID-19 Offsite/Online Learning

At the time of writing, the College is still in a mixture of remote and onsite learning modes. All of our students return onsite from 9 June onwards. There was a considerable effort required to move from onsite learning to offsite provision for that eight-week period and again, to return onsite under strict guidelines. This change process would normally take well over twelve months to implement and evaluate. The College response to COVID-19 has been centred around the needs of our students and families. Every family has their own continuing story behind the pandemic experience. At a time of great challenge, it is wonderful to be a part of a Community that has such soul, direction and purpose.

## Health and Wellbeing

Our key concern for the St Bede's College Community is in the health and wellbeing of all. This has been a challenge for many schools, including ourselves. Whilst we are confident that our students are not disproportionately disadvantaged with the learning program, we continue to work diligently to send messages home to students and families that keeping a positive outlook, maintaining fitness and being socially active through facetime is important. A number of our videos prepared by our student leaders, Youth Ministers, Counsellors and senior staff have focused on this area.

## Communication

To date, there have been twenty-five communications sent home to our families during an eight -week period. After a flurry of information about safety and hygiene, there was the information needed about the remote learning program. Since then we have moved to modify the remote learning program as needed and as responded to by our parents, staff and students through the evaluative surveys we distributed. Finally, the process of returning to onsite learning was enunciated.

# A Word from the Principal

## Learnings

The results of the recent surveys on the remote learning program were shared with our families and the Board. There are certainly some aspects of self-paced learning that we can take back to onsite learning, especially for our senior students. The ability of students to move at their own speed in understanding concepts and completion of work has been a positive from remote learning. We were also able to ascertain that our offsite programs have been effective, that parents are more involved with their son's learning and that there has been a far greater appreciation of the role of the teacher since COVID-19.

## Amalgamation

The amalgamation of St James College, Bentleigh East into St Bede's College is planned for 2021. From that time, the current St James site will be known as St Bede's College, Bentleigh East. The College looks forward to this new chapter in its history. Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been posed and answered on our website.

## Founder's Day

Amidst all this remote learning, our Founder's Mass took place on Friday 15 May. This date is the universally recognised day to celebrate the life of St John Baptist de la Salle as it is the day on which he was declared the Universal Patron Saint of Teachers throughout the world. The College pre-recorded a Mass, said by Fr Peter Matheson, which was broadcast on the feast day in three separate timeslots. There is also a video of welcome from myself and some messages from our student leaders. This is still available on our website for viewing.

## Council of International Schools (CIS)

The College gained membership in the latter part of 2019. The Board received the report that followed that membership visit. This year we will have a Preliminary Visit, which will see 4 external education professionals on-site for four days to have a thorough look at the follow up to our membership visit. This will look specifically at any recommendations made. There will also be a more extensive look at each of the Domains. The Preliminary visit is likely to be around October this year as we work towards full International School Accreditation.

## Strategic Principles

All Old Collegians will receive a copy of this document via post. These Principles are the result of an extensive consultation process with our community.

Per Vias Rectas

John Finn  
Principal



# Reunions

Reunions are held every year to celebrate times past. Celebrations are held for the 1 Year, 10 Year, 20 Year, 30 Year, 40 Year and 50+ Year Class Anniversaries. All Old Collegians are welcomed at the reunions.

These events are traditionally held on a Friday evening through the year and hosted by the SBOCA and the College Principal. The event begins with a warm welcome, drinks and canapés. Wood fired pizzas are served before a College tour commences. From here attendees drift off to the RSL over the road for further merriment!

The 50 plus reunion is held at lunchtime at a venue off site however a tour of the College is offered prior to the luncheon.

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 situation, we have had to postpone all events on campus.

## Class of 2010 10 Year Reunion

We welcomed back the Class of 2010 in February. A well connected and successful group of young men who enjoyed the opportunity to revisit their old stomping ground - many found it hard to believe it was ten years since leaving the College!



# Casual catch- ups

## Class mates from the graduating Class of 1980

Mates from the Class of 1980 gathered in January earlier this year to celebrate friendship at Doyles Mordialloc. The occasion was to catch up with Simon Lamplugh who was home from China over the Christmas Break. Its has been 40 years since this group left St Bede's but friendships and connections have remained close.

The official 40 year reunion for this group will be held later in the year once details are confirmed - we look forward to welcoming back a much bigger cohort!

In the photograph from left to right are: Greg Foot-Connelly, Iain McFarlane(Canberra), Tim Shannon, Kevin Gommers, Andrew Sebire, Michael White, Ray Purcell, Simon Lamplugh (China) and David Gagiero (Perth)



## Class of 1988 - Christmas BBQ

Close friends and a Christmas catch up - good times all round.

From left to right: Grant Bidois, Ashan Dhammapala, Grant Hilton and Justin Mottram



# Recent Events

## St Bede's College Captain - making a difference in our community



In April this year, before COVID-19 lock downs were in place, School Captains from local schools were asked to tell readers “what actions they will take to make a difference in their community”

Our College Captain, Elijah Barrett, had this to say: “A community is composed of a group of individuals. The overall wellbeing of these individuals results from the actions and choices they collectively make and we’re reliant on the benevolence of others in order to get along.

Often, it is to portray that everything is OK. But everyone faces challenges - challenges that require the support and help of a community to overcome.

This past Summer, we’ve seen this unwavering support shown in a variety of ways, particularly in response to the tragic bushfires that our country faced. Irrespective of the relationship, best mate or stranger, we all belong to a community that at times requires help.

Acknowledging that noticeable change is usually incremental and takes time, sometimes the best starting-point is simply being open to help and showing support if required. For issues such as homelessness, poverty, mental health issues and the environment, sometimes the answer to achieving lasting change is complex and extends far further than just ourselves.

Consequently, making a difference in the community stems from a very simple approach - being open to help and providing support if required, because the answer to every problem in every community is being willing to start to fix it. Together.

## John Di Natale - TEDx Talk

John (Class of 1979) “recently had the privilege of doing a TEDx Talk. As a speaker, it is an honour to be invited and I hope that my message will encourage people to think about how they really want to live their life, helped along by the one question I asked: “what do you want to be known for?”

It was quite an experience to do a TED talk!, even for someone who has done a lot of speaking.

John’s talk can be found here:

<https://youtu.be / FSmiPE9wcpo>



# Recent Events

## A Paramedic Abroad - Aidan Glackin (Class of 2014)



Less than a year ago I moved to London to start my career as a paramedic. What a rollercoaster it has been! I've been to stabbings, held the hands of elderly as they pass, been called to countless cardiac arrests and even assisted a new mother through a successful labour on the side of the road.

Suddenly we were all faced with new challenges. Adversity that no one had ever seen before. 'Coronavirus? It'll be no more than the common flu.' How wrong we were. Covid-19 has been nothing short of physically and emotionally draining. Alongside the initial scarcity of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the social anxiety around this killer has been relentless. As research became more available, there were constant changes to organisational policy that became harder and harder to keep up with.

There is no glamourising the work we have been doing. The average day had me inside people's homes, filled with concerned onlookers, administering oxygen to their critically ill loved one before rushing them to hospital. Those that could be managed would continue to receive oxygen or would be placed onto life-saving ventilators, others would go straight into palliative care. Often I'd find myself praying "please God don't let this reach the same heights in Australia as it has here."

To cope with the high influx of calls, London Fire Brigade (LFB) made available a number of firefighters to team up with paramedics. Due to their training, they're able to drive ambulances under 'blue lights' in emergency conditions. Some of us have volunteered to take on the this added responsibility of having a crew mate with very limited medical knowledge. I've found it to be a brilliant learning experience.

The last month has shown a gradual improvement. A greater supply of PPE, clearer guidance, more resources on the road and the infection/death rate is declining. Fingers crossed the worst is behind us all!

Thanks,  
Aidan

# South Sudan - A reflection from Allan Drummond

## Allan Drummond (Past St Bede's College Teacher)

Allan has lived in South Sudan since early 2018, where he has been working at a teacher's college near the capital of Juba.

He was working until a couple of weeks ago, when the South Sudanese government closed educational institutions in an attempt to stop the spread of coronavirus. Below Allan reflects on his time in South Sudan...

There's a brand new baby boy in South Sudan, and he is called Allan.

The poor little blighter is going to spend the rest of his life explaining why he has such a funny name, instead of a proper one like Akuei. Mborimangie, Deng or Tobijo. I have taught baby Allan's uncle and aunt at our teachers' college, and I am really touched to have the little fellow named after me. I take it as a sign of gratitude that I have made a contribution to the family, though I have done nothing more here than I did at St Bede's from 1973 to 2000.

I am a teacher, and delighted to have the opportunity to keep doing what I do best, though I would not be allowed to teach back home in Victoria. They say, I'm too old, but I'm not even eighty yet!

Allan is named after me in gratitude. South Sudanese people excel in welcoming and in gratitude. In this college, I would normally shake hands with one hundred or more students each day, and it was hard for them to refrain from greeting one another in a social distancing environment. Their handshakes are not an offhand touching of the fingers, but an expression of valued relationship. That may be a function of the fact that so many of them have confronted death, face to face, or via someone close to them.

In a piece of writing submitted to me, one fine young man who will be a great teacher, described how his father was killed and how the soldiers came to rape his mother. She fought them off, so they bayoneted her to death in front of his ten year old eyes. Maybe that's why I shook his hand every morning as if I meant it, and maybe that's the kind of common story that leads them to greet one another so warmly.

Four hundred thousand dead in just the last two years of the civil war, and some three million in refugee and protection of civilians camps has led, inevitably, to a lot of post traumatic stress disorder. But in this college, people from warring tribes have come together and experienced a spirit of common humanity. It really works.



# Allan Drummond - from his daughter Celia



When we were forced to send them away from this residential college, we did so with great regret. We have tried to keep in touch with them all, though the technology in this country is primitive. Their communications express grief at missing their new friends, and gratitude for what they were being given in this college.

Echoing that gratitude, I have to say that I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been able to make a small contribution here. It has made me a better person. On top of that, to know that there's a little bloke called Allan who will be running around here for years to come just blows my mind.



Allan and his family (right) at the Old Collegians Roll of Honour into which he was inducted in 2015

Allan's daughter Celia has also written a piece about her father Allan, the full story can be read here: <https://www.elephantjournal.com/2020/05/life-is-a-splendid-torch-my-dad-in-africa-during-covid-19/>

An extract from that piece is below:

*He's always been a man of service, purpose, and thinking beyond his own existence. He initially trained to be a Catholic brother before he fell in love with my mum and forged out a teaching career. As children following him around on yet another adventure, we would often run into a former student in the most random of places, and they would more often than not recall something Dad had said or done in a particular class that had stuck with them, not realising the life lesson he was teaching them until reaching adult life.*

*A lot of his former students are now his Facebook friends, and I see many more friends are now being added from South Sudan. He has become affectionately known in his community as "Grandfather." He posted a video recently of himself with a couple of his graduating students. They understandably love him. "Grandfather is a good guy and he is a helper," said one. "He is the King of Kindness!" said another.*

*Their school is now closed, but Dad is still connecting with those students who have returned home in an attempt to quell the spread of coronavirus. For many, home is a Protection of Civilians Camp without adequate living conditions, let alone educational resources. "The authorities in those camps insist on social distancing and get very angry if there are more than 17 people gathered in one square metre. My heart bleeds for them," says Dad.*



# The Brothers Community - Mentone



With only two of the thirteen Brothers resident in the Mentone Community under “the vulnerable age group”, we have experienced the same Covid-19 restrictions as other senior Victorians. Because of our location, we are more fortunate than most thanks to the extensive school grounds and the nearby beach being available for regular exercise. As well, those of us whose rooms face south have a small balcony which provides a view of the ever-changing view of the Bay.

Our fourteenth member Brother Cal Cusack, a former teacher at Malvern, Dandenong and Balgo Hills - resides at Mercy Care in Sandringham.

The Brothers' residence, finished in 1970, fronts Palermo Street which some present students remain unaware of. In recent years, the former Boarders' dining room, used after 1997 for House groups and functions, became both the Brothers' living and dining room. Students from 1956 -70 will remember the Brothers lived on the two levels above the school offices and, prior to that era, in the Ferguson cottage on the corner near the pub.

Before that, the “oldies” will recall a cottage near the northern end of the present Chapel housed some Brothers, the school office and the Chaplain.

All but two of the resident Brothers have close connections with St Bede's.

- Brothers Hilary Walsh and Bede Mackrell are former resident students in the 1940's.
- Brothers Kenneth Ormerod (1999 - 2007), Kevin Moloney (1998) and Quentin O'Halloran (1989-98) are former Principals.

- Former staff members are Brothers Christian Moe (doyen of our Province aged 98); Cletus Storey (1960's & mid90's); Michael Carroll (1980's); Joseph Bufalo (1990's).

- Brother Jack Kidd still remains a part-time member of the school Maintenance Staff.

Brother Tony Cummins is the youngest and the only Brother teaching full-time in the College. He was the Year 8 Coordinator here in the early 1990's and returned in 2019 after several years of working in Youth Ministry and Leadership roles based in NSW. As well as being the Year 9: 7 Home Room person, he is a member of the staff teams responsible for RE programs and classes in Year 12 and VCAL. He has proved to be an innovative and effective online teacher over recent weeks and is also responsible for staff Morning Prayer streamed from the Chapel.

The two other members of the Community - Brothers Joe Gabel and Matthew Heron - after being involved in Aboriginal, missionary and school ministries, retain their special skills in technical areas and Ornithology respectively.

The Brothers are indeed grateful to Mr. John Finn for his generous support and regular encouragement.

# BedaBoys Initiatives

## BedaBoys Brotherhood

As a Beda Boy, we know you will be delighted to hear about our latest initiative to assist - in a non-financial way - former Collegians who might have fallen upon challenging times, particularly due to health issues and accidents.

The BedaBoys Brotherhood was the idea of our previous President Steve Ager. We have produced a video introducing the concept and asking for your assistance.

Please view the video [HERE](#).

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful initiative, please [REGISTER HERE](#)



## Business Directory



Growing a business is all about selling more to existing clients and/or finding new clients, so please seriously consider joining the St Bede's Community Online Business Directory (SBCOBD).

This is an opportunity to grow using a significant network you are already linked with.

The Directory can feature your company logo, your business category, a brief description of your business activities and your contact details. Each listing is in colour and hyperlinked directly to your website. So easy for people to contact you.

You will significantly increase your business's commercial potential through this 'common bond' network. Your business will grow:

- Directly through the SBCOBD
- Through the networks of all SBCOBD members
- Through existing SBCOBD clients

Sign up THIS MONTH for complimentary listing until December 31st, 2020, from which time it will cost just \$99 per calendar year. Please also pass along this offer to others within our Community.

[VIEW DIRECTORY HERE](#) and [REGISTER HERE](#)...

It's very simple

# In the News

With the world in lock down, we reached out to our Old Collegian Community and asked for their news - thank you to all who have contributed

Steve Gravina (Class of 2002)



So a few of us from West Coast were asked if we were willing to be employed by Mineral Resources in a short term capacity to come up to the various mine sites to help out where possible in a health and well-being.

It's been a fascinating experience and something I am forever grateful to be lucky enough to remain employed during these difficult times. We will remain involved with Mineral Resources until we get the go ahead from the AFL and how that will look going forward is an ever-changing landscape"



"Coming into my 7th season as a physiotherapist at the West Coast Eagles, the AFL industry shutdown due to COVID-19 was certainly not expected.

Unfortunately as football is our product, with no football to play there was not a lot of work to do, so the result in our industry was 95% of staff being stood down until the season could be resurrected.

Fortunately for me, the club was able to throw out a lifeline. One of its premium partner's, Western Australian mining organisation Mineral Resources Limited came knocking at West Coast's door.

Although production on the mines continued as per normal, the social distancing precautions in place made life tough for the workers up on their respective sites.

The gym was closed, the common eating areas were off limits, and the general mood was pretty low.



# In the News

## Varun Mahindru (Class of 2003)

*It's been a busy 17 years since finishing at St Bede's.*

*I've spent the bulk of my career at National Australia Bank in various roles before deciding to get a taste of life outside of Australia.*

*And exactly a year ago I decided to take a role with Visa Inc and relocate myself and the family to Singapore.*

*In this role I look after Visa's Digital Products for the Singapore and Brunei markets - a huge cultural change that I'm still getting used to.*

*It was a tough change moving with a young family - Leela was 3 and Sia was only 4 months old when we decided to pack up, but it's proving to be fun now!*

*In the midst of corporate life, I somehow also gave in to the business curiosity side that many of us have, and opened and sold 2 cafes over the last 10 years - quite a tough gig for those who are in hospitality!*

*It's really been great to still be in touch with some of the Beda Boys from 2003 - and would love to hear from others if they want to get in touch. I'm contactable by all the usual social media platforms.*



## Shane Marshall (Class of 1973)



*I retired from the Federal Court in late 2015 after 20 years as a judge. In January 2017 I was appointed as an acting judge of the Supreme Court of Tasmania.*

*When Tasmania closed its borders I had a part heard civil trial. I completed the evidence from my grandchildren's playroom on my daughters I pad with her help as I am technologically challenged. I believe this is the first time the Supreme Court of Tasmania has sat in Victoria and is certainly a first for Mentone!*

## David Van (Class of 1982)



*David Van was elected as a federal Senator for Victoria at the 2019 Federal Election.*

*David runs a small business, and is a strong advocate to improve the lives of the homeless.*

# In the News

## Satbir Singh (Class of 2007)



On Wednesday 6 May, Satbir Singh was announced as a finalist in the Top 30 lawyers under the age of 30 in Australia.

Each of the 30 practice areas of law has 10 finalists across Australia.

Since completing his Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws at Deakin University, Satbir has practiced exclusively in Family Law. After completing his degree Satbir worked for two years as a Judge's Associate at the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in the Family Law jurisdiction. From there, he worked in a Melbourne law firm practicing exclusively in all areas of family law.

Satbir acts for clients in both the Geelong and Melbourne offices, and appreciates the added emotional complexities which often confront his clients and looks for practical and collaborative solutions



## Jeremy Mann (Class of 2018)



Jeremy was an inaugural recipient of the Hansen Scholarship at Melbourne University. Established in 2019, the Hansen Scholarship Program is designed to help outstanding students from a diverse range of backgrounds thrive at University and go on to realise their potential.

Each recipient will be supported for the full three years of their Bachelor's Degree with Melbourne University and receive a living allowance, mentoring and pastoral care, academic, cultural, career and other development opportunities.

The 20 recipients of this award were presented their Scholarships by Hansen Scholarship Program Patron Jane Hansen AO and Vice-Chancellor Professor Duncan Maskell.



From Jeremy:

*"Being a Hansen Scholar, with its financial and residential support will be of huge assistance towards achieving my goals. I plan to major in Economics and Politics/International Studies and complete the Diploma in Languages in Italian concurrently. After my undergraduate degree, I aim to continue with the Juris Doctor which will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming a Legal Officer in the Royal Australian Navy."*

# In the News

## Eddie Perfect (Class of 1995)

Eddie has returned to Australia from New York to live, but will continue working in both countries.

His recent musical Beetlejuice will tour here after touring the American states and the West End of London. To date the soundtrack of the show, for which he wrote the music and the words, has streamed 350 million times worldwide and was the highest streaming Broadway musical for 2019-2020



## Julian Reeves (Class of 1981)



Julian embarked on a career change at the start of 2020, joining Morgan Stanley in Melbourne as a private client adviser for families and not for profits including Catholic Parishes and retirement homes. In making the change, Julian has reconnected with Joseph Ghaly from the Class of 1981.

## Nic Hayes (Class of 1990)



Look out for OLD BOYS, they will look out for you

*“Two years ago I was presenting a media workshop in Sydney with 40 executives and business leaders. Remember those times pre-COVID19 when we could travel in planes, attend conferences and workshops.*

*As I was rushing off to my next appointment an attendee of that workshop was chasing after me. “Hey you are a St Bede’s boy. I was Vice Captain in 1987.” During my presentation Paul Allen the Managing Director of Margin Partners looked up my LinkedIn profile while I was delivering the workshop and saw that I had gone to the ‘College of Knowledge’. I was a student from 1985-1990.*

*Instantly there was rapport and a friendship was formed as we had both worn the blue blazer and shared the same ground, times and teachers during our most important times growing up. In business you are always looking for a connection and something in common with your clients but there is nothing more powerful than a school connection. You want to help them as much as they want to help you be successful, it’s a natural response.*

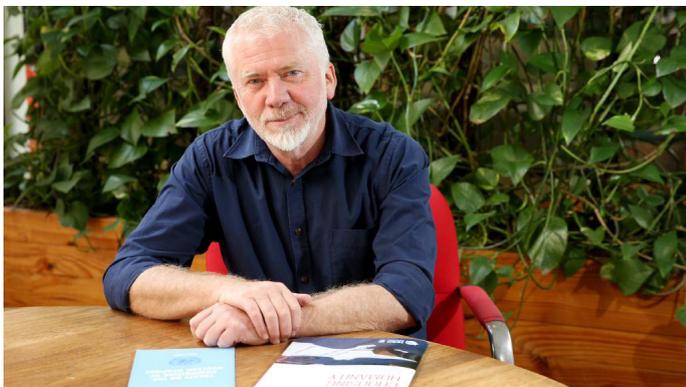
*Paul runs a very smart business focussing on business margins for big and medium sized businesses. I wanted to make sure that he was looked after and when I asked him what was one of his media goals he quoted Alan Kohler Talking Business as the top priority. We booked Paul in with Alan and it aired in January 2019. Here is the interview and transcript <https://marginpartners.com.au/talking-business-with-alan-kohler/>*

*It does get tough to top that media engagement but I will always try that little bit harder for an ‘Old Boy’.”*

Nic Hayes is the Managing Director of Media Stable a business that connects experts and media.

# In the News

## Dave Sweeney (Class of 1980)



*Dave Sweeney - ICAN co-founder 2017 Nobel Peace Prize and diploma – Oslo, 2017*

My name is Dave Sweeney and I attended – boarded – at St Bede’s from 1978-1980 where I was part of the last HSC class....

Since that time long ago I studied literature and politics, worked briefly as a TAFE, tech and high school teacher and Uni lecturer and for a longer period as an industrial and resource journalist and then as a media officer for aid and development group Oxfam and a series of trade unions, etc.

For the last two decades I have led the Australian Conservation Foundations nuclear free campaign.

In 2006/07 I was a foundation member of an Australian born civil society initiative called ICAN – the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

We are working to advance an international treaty to get rid of these weapons of mass destruction – along the lines of the chemical, biological and landmines Conventions.

We realised the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the UN in September 2017 and later that year were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In December 2017 I was invited to be part of the formal Award ceremony in Oslo, Norway – where the attached pics were taken – a quite amazing time and acknowledgment.



*Dave Sweeney and Beatrice Fihn, International Director ICAN, Oslo, December 2017*



# In the News

## Graham Jones (Class of 1965)



In 1965 at the age of 17, Graham Jones won his school's art prize at St. Bede's College Mentone, yet it wasn't until January 2015 that he would once again pursue his interest in art.

Creative ventures in music, writing and architectural design had however, consumed much of his working life. His new found love for acrylic painting has turned into a full-time obsession, having completed over 600 works in just 5 years from his studio at Southern Buoy Studios in Mornington.

His 'mainly' abstract works begin with a point of reference and can be summed up in a quote from Pablo Picasso who wrote "I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them".

Many of his works are landscaped based utilising a vibrant colour palette while others reflect the vagaries of life clouded by personal tragedy often expressed in darker tones, boldly abstracted to appeal to one's senses on many different levels. He is also open to charting experimental waters of topic, genre and style, if and when he sees fit. 'FACELESS FORGOTTEN' his series of 52 tiny acrylic works on paper depicting the plight of refugees, has gained critical acclaim for its powerful message.

solo exhibition in the United Arab Emirates At the ART HUB Gallery - The Galleria, Abu Dhabi (Feb 1st - 13th 2020).

Graham's painting "BAY of FIRES" was chosen by Canadian Deborah Trudeau, the President Of the IWF (International Women's Forum) for the design of a silk scarf by Australian fashion Designer Lisa Barron which became the centrepiece of the 2018 IWF World Conference held in Melbourne in May 2018 attended by 500 women from around the globe.

After an overwhelming response from 1500 artists from 25 countries, Graham Jones was selected as an "Artist-in Residence" at Chateau d'Orquevaux, Champagne-Ardenne France during May 2018 along with 10 other international artists. He was invited to participate once again in September 2019 and will return for a 3rd residency in August 2020.

Graham Jones has completed numerous commissioned works, many of which are held in private collections in the USA, Canada, UK, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Denmark, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates as well as throughout Australia.

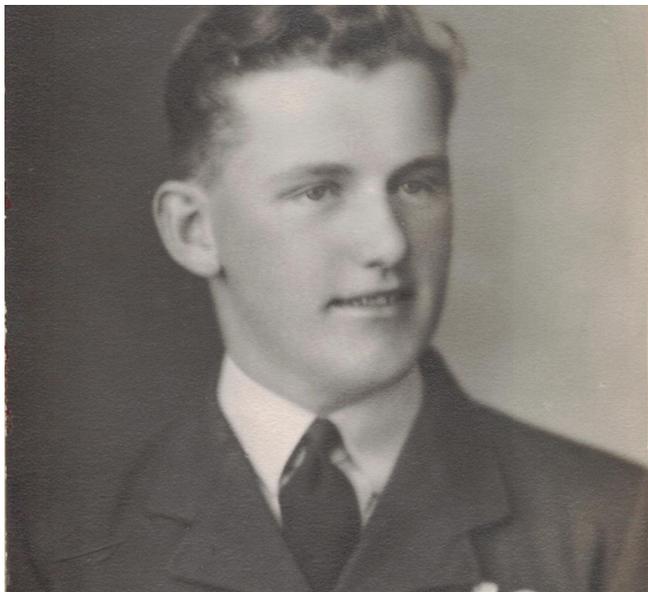


As demand for his work increases, established galleries are providing opportunities for solo and joint exhibitions Australia wide. Graham's work is currently held in six Victorian galleries while WATERSHED Gallery, Pokolbin Hunter Valley NSW and NISSARANA Galleries, Hastings Street, Noosa Heads QLD, are his current interstate representations.



# From the Archives

## John Ryan (Class of 1939)



Flight Sergeant John Francis Ryan attended and graduated from St Bede's College in 1939.

He enlisted with the RAAF on 14 July 1942 in Melbourne. John received his Pilot Wings at RAAF Mallala not long after.

Flight Sergeant John Ryan was a member of 576 Squadron and entered the Second World War in 1944. His crew were stationed at RAF Fiskerton airfield in Lincolnshire, England, 3 miles East of Lincoln.

The crew came in from a training unit at the beginning of March 1945 and were there for less than three weeks.

John's and his crew perished on their 4th operation, victims of Luftwaffe night fighter Ace, Oberleutnant Erich Jung. He was the last 576 Squadron pilot to die before the hostilities ended on May 8 1945.

Official documents from the Australian record office, record John and his crew's loss on route to Nuremberg on the evening of May 16 1945 (less than 3 weeks after Flight Sergeant Ryan arrived at the RAF Fiskerton airfield).

This year marks the 75th anniversary of his death. This 20 year old brave young BedaBoy, knowing he would not escape his doomed Lancaster Bomber stayed at the controls as it fell from 20,000 feet, trying to regain control for his crew to parachute out. Only two crew managed to escape the burning plane and sadly the second airman to leave the aircraft did so at a very low height, falling directly to the burning crash site.

Flight Sergeant John Francis Ryan is buried at Durnbach War Cemetery in Bayern, Germany



# From the Archives



## Mark Dunn (Class of 1965)

*I was reminiscing the other day, as one has a lot of time to do these days, on my first day at St Bede's 1968 and Brother Stan was my Form 1 teacher (Facio; I make). My Dad was a paper & stationery products salesman so I arrived at St Bede's with a bag full of nifty pens. Quite a few boys didn't have pens so I made a tidy sum selling my excess stock. Being very canny with money, I blew the lot on lollies & drinks on the way home that day!!! A valuable lesson learned even before Br Stan took over.*



# A memory of a great mate

## Dave McMullan (Class of 1977)



For our mate, South Melbourne Football Club die-hard, David (Dave) Peter McMullan (1959-2010), the footy season of 1972 might not have been the best, with his team losing on too many Saturdays to bring them above 11th spot in the 12 team VFL competition. But like every trial in life that came his way, he accepted the losses with equanimity. Dave was a guy whose compassion far exceeded any desire to complain. He epitomised the St Bedes motto: he always followed the right path.

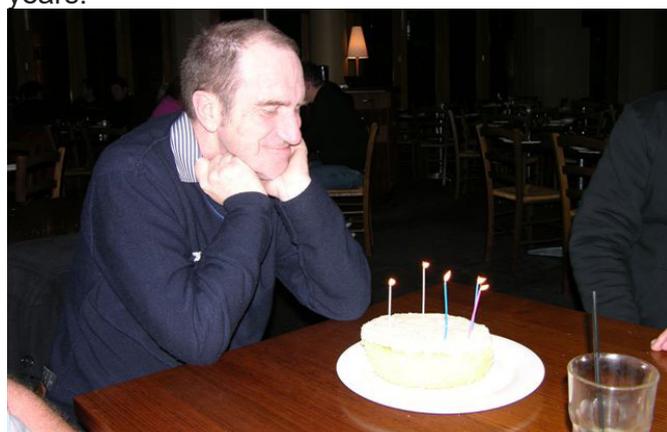
We met Dave on our first day of high school and, had the classes been streamed by primary school friendship group or academic ability as they often are today, our lives might have been very different. But in 1972 we were sorted alphabetically and so we were all placed in 1 Green. With class sizes of about 50 in those days it took a while for our home room teacher, Brother Timothy Peter, to get through all the names. Never having taught before, our class left its mark so indelibly on him that he can still remember small details like Dave's perpetual grin even today.

One thing that everyone noticed about Dave from the start was that he was a little bit different from the rest of us. It was clear that he was never going to become Dux of the school and, despite a fervent love of most sport, he was never going to cause any difficulty for the selectors of the footy or cricket team. However, that didn't stop him trying. But the class rooms and the school yard can be a tough place at times for every kid, and the nature of pre-pubescent boys saw Dave getting picked on because he was a soft target. At some stage the Brothers saw that he was vulnerable and asked a few of us to keep a bit of a look out for him.

Whereas most of us behaved like typical unruly

teenage boys and were often rewarded with corporal punishment, Dave was rarely in trouble; he was a stranger to malice and wasn't much interested in pulling the pranks most of us did. Life wasn't a competition for Dave – he was quite the team member and was always bailing people up for a chat at lunch time. He seemed to relish our company and as time passed, he became a sort of mascot for our group. At the end of each school day some of our group would walk to Parkdale Station to catch a Frankston-bound "Red Rattler" home. Dave had a distinctive and infectious laugh as well as a gift for impersonation (Bob Hawke became a specialty later in life). We were always on the lookout for an empty compartment and when we found one were protective of it, particularly if a crowd of "Assy Tech" hoods were on the platform when we pulled in to Aspendale (... quick, pile up against the window and make our compartment look full...).

Leaving school at the end of Year 10, Dave commenced a six-year stint working for Vic Rail and for a while could be seen at Frankston Station, proud in his Vic Rail uniform holding the key that opened the gates to let pedestrians on or off the platform. As times and technologies changed, Dave moved to Telecom where he worked as a cleaner for many years.



Meanwhile the rest of us remained students for a couple more years, but Dave didn't lose touch. Quite the opposite. He became our social convener, wielding a little black book with all our numbers in it and working the phones like an overseas call centre. He always rang on our birthdays and throughout the year we were encouraged, cajoled, reminded over and over of the next social gathering. You could bet you would get at least two phone calls as a reminder in the week before, to make sure you knew who was going to be there.

# A memory of a great mate

The call would go something like this: “hey (Brendan/John/Kev/Matt/Michael/Paul/ Pete/Pete), Dave here, how you going...?” Before you could reply he was telling you all about his new job , about how the Swans were going to win on the weekend, about when the next catch up at the Edgie was going to be, or other news about members of the group.

When John moved to Sydney, Dave would take the time to hand-write and post letters to him with all the news about us. He was a bit like facebook; he was everywhere, and he made sure we all kept in touch. Wives and children were added along the way and Dave’s ability to keep track of it all was exceptional. As Dave approached his forties he was diagnosed with epilepsy. Sadly, our catch ups were sometimes curtailed by a seizure that saw him drop to the floor. Yet it never dampened his enthusiasm to arrange more get togethers and they continued once or twice a year. At one of these he was able to celebrate the Swans taking away the flag.

It didn’t seem all that much later that we received further news. Dave had been diagnosed with leukemia. Despite this crushing revelation, we never saw Dave lose his sense of humour, his concern for others, or even his remarkable knowledge of every winner of the Brownlow medal since 1947... When someone organised an autographed photo of the great Bobby Skilton around this time, he was ecstatic, showing it off proudly to all visitors.

On 8 June 2010, Dave passed away peacefully at home at age 51, surrounded by his family. It was devastating for us, and we were grateful when the family involved us all as pallbearers and St Bede’s flag carriers at his funeral. “Oh Danny Boy” was sung a capella by a choir on the way out and, to say that we all struggled to keep our emotions in check would be an understatement.



Dave lived at home all his life, his mum Marg referring to him as her ‘beautiful boy’. He was liked and even loved by everyone who ever met him and was something of a legend in and around Bonbeach. But what he became for us was the glue that kept us in touch with each other for 48 years – and counting. It is a testimony to the power of Dave’s approach to life that his death didn’t dissolve the glue; it reinforced it.



Twice each year our group still catches up. Once for his birthday at a pub in Mordialloc (since the Edgewater closed) and once for a weekend in the country where we hit a golf ball, playing for the McMullen Cup. Enjoying a few beers and reminiscing about our days at St Bede’s and beyond, there is of course one person who always gets a special mention, and that is Dave. Every one of us has a “Dave Story”. At our last catch up someone wondered out loud, “... where would we be without him?” We sat there and looked at each other, and thought, isn’t it incredible that someone who we were asked to keep an eye on 48 years ago ended up turning the tables and looking after us by keeping us together. Dave became so much more to all of us than I’m sure he ever realised. In that way for us he lives on and on and on.

Kevin O’Brien, John O’Malley, Brendan Pell, Paul Rate, Peter Richard, Michael Riordan, Peter Riordan, Matthew Rocke.

# The Finian Foundation



The Finian 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 over 50 years of those spent at St Bede's College, it was deemed most appropriate to name the foundation the Finian Foundation after Br 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 College.

All donations are fully tax deductible.

The generosity of donors allows for the alleviation of financial difficulties 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 such students who have been helped in this way have expressed thanks to the St Bede's Old Collegians Association for their kindness and generosity.

**No matter how large or small, your gift will make a difference to current and future Beda Boys.**

If you wish to make a donation to this worthy cause, please complete the form on the following page and mail to address below:

## **The Finian Foundation**

C/o St Bede's Old Collegians Association,  
2 Mentone Parade, Mentone, 3194

For further details, please contact Old Collegians Officer Jo Hynes

Phone: 9582 5722

Email: [oldcolls@stbedes.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oldcolls@stbedes.catholic.edu.au)

**All donations to the Finian Foundation are fully tax deductible.**

## **A memory from John Keyte attended St Bede's College 1938– 1941**

*"I was saddened by the death of Br Finian. A De La Salle Brother I greatly respected. His ability to meet and make welcome all old boys and to remember names was truly amazing. My time at De La Salle Malvern in 1937 and then as one of the new boarders at Mentone in 1938 with my brother Frank was a challenging experience for a twelve year old from Bairnsdale. A new school with none of the modern comforts enjoyed by our modern day students, but the beach was just over the road and that was a bonus.*

*Now aged 90, I almost feel like the last man standing...My education and experience at St Bede's College has enabled me to have a good life and a satisfying career and I know that the spirituality and temporal values will continue to be passed on to future generations, keeping our nation Christian."*



## The Finian FOUNDATION

**No matter how large or small, your gift will make a difference to current and future Beda Boys.**

If you wish to make a donation to this worthy cause, please complete the following and mail to address below:

Name of gift giver(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle amount:                    \$100                    \$250                    \$500                    \$1000

Other amount:                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method                    Visa                    Mastercard                    Cheque\*

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Direct Debit - Westpac

Either:

**EFT:** BSB 262 786      **Account:** 120 153 903

**BPay Biller Code:** 220 186

\*Cheque payable to "The Finian Foundation"

### The Finian Foundation

C/o St Bede's Old Collegians Association,  
2 Mentone Parade, Mentone, 3194

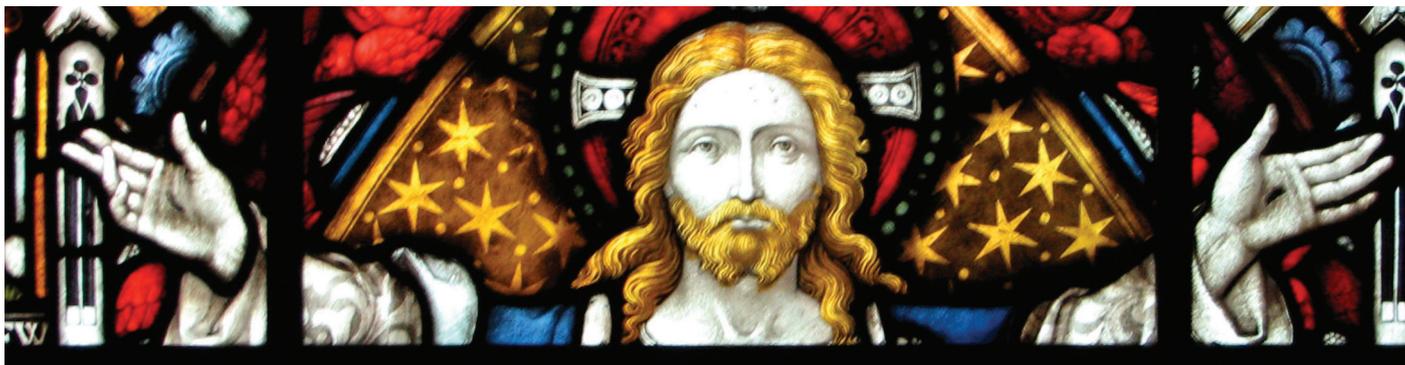
For further details, please contact Old Collegians

**Officer:** Jo Hynes

**Phone:** 9582 5999

**Email:** [oldcolls@stbedes.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oldcolls@stbedes.catholic.edu.au)

# In Memoriam



## Brother Anthony Gaul

Brother Anthony Gaul entered eternal life on Saturday 30 May, 2020. Among many experiences, Br Tony had taught Science at St Bede's College from 1975 until the mid Eighties. He was a highly intelligent man gaining his Doctorate in Geology from Monash while teaching at the College.  
May he rest in Peace.

## Denis O'Brien (Class of 1964)

After a brave battle, Denis passed away peacefully with his family at home in Benall in March this year. A loveable larrikin and avid Tigers supporter he will be sadly missed by his wife Jan and all the family.  
Due to COVID-19 restrictions a Memorial Service for Denis will be held at the Benalla Race Club later this year.  
May he rest in Peace.

## Michael (Eric) Izod (Class of 1961)

Michael entered eternal life in January 2020. He passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Husband to Denise, father to Jenny and Russell, much loved Grandfather of 5 and Great Grandfather to Laine. "A true Territorian, a man of his word and one of the Territories best fishermen."  
May he rest in Peace.

## Bernard Dell'Aglio (Class of 1977)

Bernard entered eternal life in December 2019.  
May he rest in Peace.

## Robert O'Brien (Class of 1995)

Robert entered eternal life in March 2020. Much loved son and friend of David and Mary (dec). Dearly loved brother of Karen, David, Sarah, Lisa and families.  
May he rest in Peace

## Eddy Issa (Class of 2004)

Eddie entered eternal life suddenly and unexpectedly in May 2020. He was very much loved by his family and will be dearly missed. "He is always on our minds and always in our hearts"  
May he rest in Peace.

## Br Chris Corringe

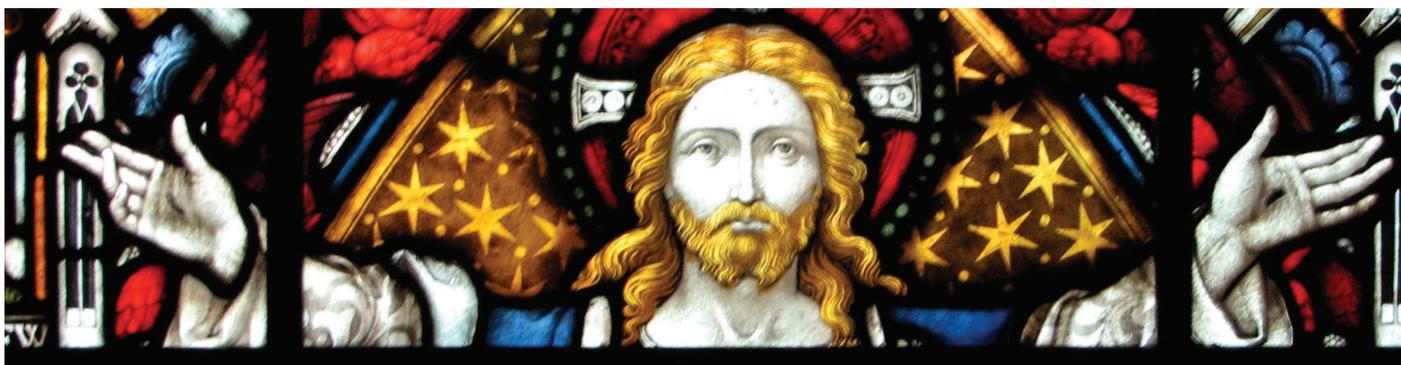
Brother Chris entered eternal life in April 2020. We think of Br Chris, his family and the Brothers of the District, many of whom worked with him closely over a long journey. Br Chris has been a strong support to many people involved in Lasallian education.

In writing about his close advisor, Br David Hawke quoted the writing of St John Baptist de La Salle that Br Chris said resonated with him personally:

*'Be satisfied with what you can do because God is satisfied but be assured that with the help of God's grace you can accomplish more than you can possibly imagine'* (John Baptist de La Salle).

May he rest in Peace.

# In Memoriam



## Father Peter Robinson (Class of 1942)

Dearly beloved son of Arthur and Emmie (both dec.). Loved brother of Carmel (dec.) and brother-in-law of Jack Myers (dec.) and fond uncle to their children and grandchildren; John (dec.) and brother-in-law Joan and fond uncle to their children and grandchildren; Kathie (dec.); and Clare (Sister Clare of the Daughters of Charity, Marsfield NSW). Dearly respected nephew and cousin to the Newtons, Nolans and Carolans. A much loved and respected Priest; equally loved by the extended families.

Some of the science around Coronavirus COVID-19, (that humans are affected by their environment and particularly by the behaviour of others) is, in a sense, a reminder of how Peter lived. Through his actions we learnt that individuals, communities no matter how big or small, can be affected by the good of others: we know it, we feel it, we all felt it with Peter - his voice, his handshake, his body language, his sign language, his look and concern only for you as a beautiful human being. Anyone who came into contact with Peter in some way had to be affected. During his 87 years he had mastered the art of what someone has described as the moment when our thanks-giving becomes our thanks-living.

Gratitude and joy defined his mission in this life to eternity. At a future date, when circumstances permit, we will arrange the fitting memorial service we know Peter would like us to all enjoy.  
May he rest in Peace

# Sporting News

## Sporting Club Contact details

For all the latest news on the St Bede's Old Collegians Hockey Club please visit their website:  
[St Bede's Old Collegians Hockey Club](#)

For all the latest news on the St Bede's Mentone Tigers, please visit their website:  
[www.stbedesmentonetigers.com.au](http://www.stbedesmentonetigers.com.au)

For all the latest news on the Kingston Hawks Cricket Club, please visit their website:  
<https://www.khcc.com.au/>



*This is your Association so feedback is always very welcome. We would love to hear from you. Whether it's a story, a memory or just a reconnecting, please get in contact.*

*St Bede's Old Collegians Association  
2 Mentone Parade  
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*Website: [www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au/old-collegians-association](http://www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au/old-collegians-association)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stbedesoldcolls](http://www.facebook.com/stbedesoldcolls)*

*LinkedIn: St Bede's Old Collegians (SBOCA)*