



St. Laurence's College Old Boys' Association

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SLOBA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

SLOBA COMMITTEE 2008

PRESIDENT: MICHAEL KEARNEY '03
VICE PRES: PAUL CATCHLOVE '96
SECRETARY: MATTHEW KAN '96
TREASURER: JOE KELLY '96
REGISTRAR: DI TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANTHONY CATCHLOVE '94
JOHN O'BRIEN '98

SLC TEACHER REP.

ANDREW KENDALL '84

STUDENT REPS.

TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

FRI 14TH MARCH—SLC BUSINESS BREAKFAST, GREEK CLUB
SAT 15TH MARCH—REDS v BULLS SUNCORP STADIUM 7:00PM
SAT 17TH MAY—REDS v WARATAHS SUNCORP STADIUM 7:30PM
FRI 23RD MAY—GOLF DAY (PROPOSED)
SAT 23RD AUG—SENIOR OLD BOYS LUNCH @ SLC
SAT 11TH OCT—ANNUAL DINNER, VENUE TBA

SENIOR YEAR:

The year shown as your senior year is the projected year if you left the college before completing Senior. E.g. if you left in Grade 10/1945 your senior year would be 12/1947

PRESIDENTS 2007 REPORT:

Dear Friends,

This year has seen a number of new opportunities present themselves to the Association. The committee

worked hard to ensure the success of the Old Boys Dinner which was held at the Irish Club after the 6pm mass at St Stephen's Cathedral. **Going forth we** will ensure that we continue that growth and success of the dinner that we achieved this year. The Senior Old Boys Luncheon held at the college in August resulted in a record 75 senior old boys attending. This was with the assistance of Andrew Kendall and 12 students who also sung the war cry and took the old boys on a tour of the college. Many of the senior old boys remarked that there had been so many changes that their old school was almost unrecognisable. This is a testament to the advancement of our great school.

Other events throughout the year with which the Old Boys Association were involved with included special interest groups including a trip to the Brisbane Lions AFL match and several social golf mornings. Going forth into 2008, we hope to continue the success of such interest groups, along with the creation of more groups including the arts, music and a variety of sporting groups.

This year I have decided to step down from President, however will remain on as vice-president. I wish Michael Kearney, our recently elected President and much success as he seeks to provide new vision and **leadership for SLOBA. Michael's** experience as treasurer for the past two years coupled with his professional skills will be a major asset to the Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee, Di Taylor (Registrar) and all those who supported me in my time as President of SLOBA. It has been a privilege to serve the Association as President.

Paul Catchlove
2007 President

INCOMING PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Dear Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my thanks to Paul Catchlove and fellow committee members for the success of 2007. I would also like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Di Taylor, Registrar, for her continued support, organisation and facilitation of the activities of the Association. For those **who don't know me, I graduated from St Laurence's College in 2003. I was** very actively involved in various activities when at the college and seek to continue that involvement **through the St Laurence's Old Boys Association.** 2008 is also my 5 year reunion and I thought it ideal that I show my appreciation and support of the college by taking on the role as President.

Please contact me on mobile 0401 827 037 or via email

Michael.Kearney@suncorp.com.au if you have any suggestions or would like to actively assist the Old Boys Committee in providing a successful alumni group for the past students of **St Laurence's College.**

In peace,

Michael Kearney
2008 President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

ST LAURENCE'S OLD BOYS' PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1978

Newsletter:

In 1978 the committee decided to try to improve communications between itself and the other Old Boys. At the start of the year we produced a calendar of important dates for 1978, a newsletter and the first edition of "Old Saints". Many hours were spent compiling mailing lists and folding pieces of paper. My sincere thanks go to Br. Brady for offering to finance the venture. The cost of preparing and posting several hundred letters would have been beyond our means. Unfortunately very few people read their calendar after they had received it.

Annual Mass & Dinner:

Following the traditional Mass celebrated by Fr. Paul Rooney in the College chapel, we adjourned to Chardon's Hotel for an excellent meal. There we were kept entertained by the wit and wisdom of Mr. Vince Gair, our guest speaker for the evening. Though the numbers were low the spirits were high.

Old Boys' Football Match:

This year the games were played at Runcorn, The curtain raiser, a game of touch, proved that both Old Boys' and staff were short of gallop. The Old Boys' proved too strong for the First XV in the main match. The Firsts, weakened by State Secondary School trials, performed gallantly but could not hold the larger and faster Old Boys. A BBQ after the main match nicely rounded off a most enjoyable day.

Old Boys' Ball:

This was the gala event of the year. It was held at the Gabba Greyhound Racing Club on the usual date of the Tuesday of Show Week. Our thanks go to Ron Saywell of 4BK who acted as MC for the evening. "Season of the Witch", one of Brisbane's leading show bands kept the multitudes on their feet for most of the night.

Congratulations:

Our congratulations go to former school captain, Alan Paulsen, on his ordination to the priesthood in the middle of the year.

Thanks:

I would like to thank the 1978 committee for their unending assistance throughout the year, particularly in relation to the newsletter. Special thanks must go to the association tireless secretary, Peter "Doubles" Daley. The Old Boys would be lost without him. Finally a sincere thank you to all Old Boys who supported functions during the year. I know you will be back in 1979. Bring your mates!

**Peter McKnulty '75
President**

ST LAURENCE'S OLD BOYS' FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

**Mark Stockwell '80
(Chairperson)
Bill Siganto '53
Bernie McGowan '77
Damien Ferguson '84
Chris Skelton '78
Greg McMahan '86
Ian McDonald (SLC Principal)**

FOUNDATION REPORT:



Mark Stockwell, Chairman's Report – October 2007

The St Laurence's Old Boys' Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the Brother Lawrence Wilkes Memorial Fund. The Brother Wilkes Fund has been made possible through the generosity of Mr Bill Siganto AM, a Trustee of the Foundation, and it's Chairman for many years.

Brother Laurence Hubert Wilkes (1923-1998) was 60 years a Christian Brother and taught at St Laurence's College from 1944 to 1948. He was born on the southern island of New Zealand and at age 15 decided he wished to join the Christian Brothers. He came to Australia to study to be a teacher and in January 1944 headed for his first teaching position at Laurence's College.

In those days, classes were huge – 113 students – but Brother Wilkes who has been described as a born teacher, relished the role. "Hubie" as he was known was an enthusiastic teacher as well as an enthusiastic and resourceful sports coach. He taught large numbers of boys the essentials of football and cricket, although he himself was much lacking in ability. Brother Wilkes was a keen runner and was reported to have run home after an inter-school carnival in the city in the pouring rain carrying his hat, coat and stock.

Brother Wilkes was transferred to Sydney, New Zealand and the Cook Islands in each case taking up challenging roles in working class schools where he laboured to help his students better their knowledge of their faith and improve their prospects for their future careers. He mainly taught Mathematics and Technical Drawing. Brother Wilkes is said to have possessed an unremitting faithfulness to duty, hardly ever had a day absent from the classroom, dealt with classes where the kudos was not great and achieved good examination results for his students setting them on a path to successful careers.

Donations to the Brother Lawrence Wilkes Memorial Fund are sought to establish a capital fund, the income from which will be used to assist parents and carers who are

unable to meet in part or in full the fees of a boy entitled to be enrolled, or currently enrolled, at St Laurence's College.

The Trustee for the St Laurence's Old Boys' Foundation ABN 31 821 435 744 is endorsed by the Commonwealth Government as a deductible gift recipient. Hence, all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Should you wish any more information, please contact Phillepeau O'Callaghan at the Foundation.



Foundation Contact Details

The St Laurence's Old Boys' Foundation
PO Box 3144
West End Qld 4101
Email: mark@stockwells.com
Phone: 3004 6888
Fax: 3004 6899

The above address & phone numbers are for the Foundation only. SLOBA'S contact details are:

**P. O. Box 5705
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Ph/Fax: 1300 661 512
Email: slcoldboys@bigpond.com
Steve Stockwell '72 & Mark Stockwell '80**

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Jakob Searle (Class of 2006) became the latest Old Boy to represent Australia in sport. Jakob was selected in the Queensland U18

Handball (European style) team to contest the National Titles held in Sydney in June 2007. Following a strong performance in the U18 team, playing in the U21 team, and court time in the Men's Development Squad, Jakob was selected by the National Handball Federation in the national Men's Youth Squad (U18) to participate in the World Youth Handball Championships. The Championships were held in Bahrain from 26 July - 5 August 2007. The team had a four day stopover in Doha, Qatar where they played against local teams to finalise preparations for the Championships. During the Championships, the team played games against Egypt, Sweden, Korea, Brazil, Tunisia and Morocco. Results were encouraging with the team attaining the level of skill and satisfaction expected by organiser's in Australia and Bahrain.



Jakob '06, Kevin '56 & Glenn '80 Searle

A milestone for the Searle family took place in 2006 when Jakob Searle played for the 1st XV, which was 26 years after his father Glenn Searle played in the 1st XV in 1980, which was 26 years after his father Kevin Searle played for the 1st XV in 1954. This of course covers three generations of representation in St Laurence's Rugby Union. It would be of interest to know if any other families of our Old Boys community have similar stories to relate.

Cooper Cronk '00 (Coops) has played for Melbourne Storm since the end of 2003 making his debut in 2004 and took over as half back in



2006. He won the Dally M Award for Halfback-of-the-year in 2006 and gained a Kangaroo selection in 2007 for a one off test against New Zealand. He also achieved premiership success in 2007 with the Melbourne Storm in their defeat of the Sea Eagles



R. I. P.

John Gaggin '68

11/11/1950 - 12/12/2006

John Gaggin '68 with friends

Kenneth Gair '48

2 February 2007 father of Denis '76, Peter '80 and Steven '82. Also a cousin of Paul and Clem Gair.



**HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL
Mr Stuart Tasker**

Nicholas (Nick) Dyer '39

25/09/1923 - 17/01/2007

Brett Gwyther '00

19/09/1982— 21/01/2007

Brett played AFL for Western Magpies playing senior football for six years and he also coached a junior team for four years. Brett tragically died from cancer at the very young age of 24.

STUART TASKER

SLC 1979 – 1996

26. 3.1952 – 19.2.2007

I have been asked by the family to extend their sincere thanks to you for your presence here this morning, for your messages of condolence, for your offers of support and for the many kindnesses you have extended to Helen and the family since last Monday.

To Helen, Daniel, Jayne, Amy,

members of the Tasker and Egan families we offer our deepest and most sincere sympathy on the loss of your beloved Stuart. Little we can say at this time can possibly fill the void you must feel in your lives. Probably little we can say or do at present can assuage your sorrow. However, the presence of so many people here this morning and many who are unable to attend who knew and loved Stuart, our promise of support, the sincerity of our prayers both for yourselves and Stuart may in time lessen your deep sorrow and help you to appreciate the position Stuart held in all our hearts. He was indeed a much loved and respected man.

Above all we hope that you are able to draw some consolation from knowing that Stuart loved you – his family – with every fibre of his being. You were his loved wife and children. You were his best friends – you were his closest mates

Norman and Wilma Tasker had two sons. Murray and Stuart Norman Simpson. They ran a cattery in Christchurch. Helen is convinced that it was because of the background that Stuart developed his great love of animals, a trait that was to stay with him all his life. Stuart attended the local primary school and then moved on to the Shirley Boys High School where he was a successful student participating in a wide variety of activities. In looking through some of the schools annuals, the other night young Daniel came across a report on the achievements of the school's chess club in which it was stated that the most outstanding chess player in the team was one King Tasker – we were all rather impressed with this and somewhat taken aback until Daniel noted that the report had actually been written by one "S Tasker".

Stu moved on to Christchurch University where he was to gain his Masters and in an unusual twist his first teaching appointment was back to his old school. The Shirley Boys High School. In order to put himself through university Stu had to find a job – he became a Garbologist. Like all things he did in life Stu set out to be the best Garbologist in the business. He drove himself and his two mates who worked the truck with him to become "Leading Garbologist" – a "Leading Garbologist" is one who can lift and carry four garbage cans at a time. But there was a reason for this – the sooner they got the run finished the longer he could sleep. Stu could have a sleep at the back of the depot before heading off to lectures.

It is a recorded fact of history that during one Christmas week these three Leading Garbos collected from their grateful clients 140 dozen bottles of beer. Now while we must understand that this was N. Z. beer it was still a major undertaking to devour this quantity - thank god history did not record the results of their endeavours.

During these years – as he was to be for the rest of his life – Stu was very involved in sport – he played Rugby and represented the South Island in both Cricket and Hockey. He drove a broken down old imported car and you can just imagine him as the suave young man around town.

At the end of 1978 Stu saw the light – crossed the Tasman and settled in Brisbane. Having decided to stay, there were to be no divided loyalties. Stu decided to become Australian. The Reds replaced the Crusaders – the Wallabies replaced the All Blacks. In 1980 Stu married Helen Egan and they eventually settled here at The Gap

where they established their home and set out about raising their family. Typically Stu became involved. He played hockey for South West United – Cricket with the Gap Past Time Club – was the official starter at the Gap Gaiters swimming club. The Taskers quickly built a network of close friends – neighbours – there were few who enjoyed a party as much as Stu. If at a function all you had to do was stop and listen..... you would soon hear that unique laugh of his come drifting across the room. Stu laughed frequently.

As the children went to school both Helen and Stu became heavily involved in the parish. As a person who came to the faith through grace and conviction Stuart has a deep love of the Church. He was a regular mass goer and he served on the Liturgy Committee, he was a member of the choir, he was a special minister and was in the process of completing a Level 3 Theology Course.

Unable to obtain a teaching position Stu worked as a purchasing officer for Coles and lived as boarding supervisor at Marist Ashgrove. I can tell you from a personal experience that is a real fun job. Stu came to St Laurence's mid year 1979 to teach History, both Ancient and Modern and English. He was to remain there for seventeen years and it was to be the only Queensland school in which he taught – for some reason teachers tend to stay at St Laurence's.

Stu was an excellent teacher – respected and admired by both students and staff. He had a great love for young people – a great advantage for any teacher – and he treated his students with individual respect and care. Obviously highly intelligent he was able to connect

with his students at all levels. He treated his students as young adults and while demanding he never pushed them beyond their capabilities.

Stu being the person he was enjoyed all aspects of school life and was heavily involved in extra curricular activities – especially sport. Stu coached Rugby, Cricket, Cross Country, Athletics, the first and second Basketball teams, Volleyball but never Soccer, and he umpired and Referred. He loved Camp Laurence and took every opportunity to spend time up there with camp directors, Ken and Anne Carmody, his great friends.

However, I believe his greatest contribution to St Laurence's was in the field of Pastoral Care. As he served in the position of Head of Year 11, Year 12 and Head of Senior School he was able to influence the development of an effective and successful Pastoral care programs throughout the College. Again his love and respect for young people shows through. Stu's standing at St Laurence's is evidenced by the number of colleagues – old boys, staff and parents present in the congregation this morning... ten years after he left the College.

In 1996 Stu moved to the Board of Secondary Schools Studies (now the Queensland Studies Authority) as a testing and review officer for History. During his ten years with the authority Stu has held various positions such as Information Officer, Analyst, and Privacy and Freedom of Information Officer. In talking to one of his shocked colleagues during the week it was obvious that Stu was admired and respected. His work with teachers in helping them prepares their students for the Q C. S. led her to say "Stuart was loved and valued

by teachers throughout the state – he always worked way beyond the call of duty". Stu used to get great delight in walking into a meeting of teachers to inform them that he was a history and English teacher – knew little about Maths – but was there to tell them all about statistics. The word around the Authorities Office was if no one can answer your question – ask Stu.

I need too be careful here – I don't want to be fined \$10,000 and forced to write a letter of apology. In 1999 for reasons best known to himself Stu joined the Queensland Rugby Referees Association. Since then he has referred 197 official games and in 2003 was awarded the Richard Benedict Trophy as one of the top referrers in the Junior Grand finals – no one knows how many times he ran the line or filled in for missing officials. Five years ago he joined the management committee and in 2005 he was appointed to the position of honorary secretary. He was valued for his wisdom and administrative capacity. He served no fewer than three presidents and in the words of the present incumbent "Stuart was a referee for players (a rare species indeed) and a role model for the referees – there was not a rugby ground where he was not known and respected – he was one of Natures Gentlemen.

An old boy when told me that there was to be a eulogy to day stated – "well that will probably take an hour" – it could take an hour and still not cover all facets of Stuart's Life. I think the genius of the man was to be found in his ability to combine his family life, his professional life, his sporting life and his social life so successfully. It is obvious that he was both a loving and lovable human being. He loved and enjoyed life – he had a wonderful capacity to engage with young

people – Helen tells how at times she would go downstairs in the early hours of the morning to quieten things down only to find Stu leading the singing, enjoying the company of the teenagers - and of course he was always wearing his party shirt. Stu had a wonderful command of the English language and took great delight in writing references for young people in a way that most of us would not understand – no reference that he wrote was ever challenged.



Mother of Damien '84 and Paul '84 (dec'd)

loving, and taught us the value of respecting and caring for one another. He engendered within us a spirit of service to others. His guidance and advice to his children was invariably well considered, although we were not always in agreement.

The competing time demands of his political career were only managed with the invaluable support of his great love, soul mate and wife, our mother Joan.

Stuart had a wonderful sense of humour and a positive approach to life. Helen states publicly that it was Stu's positive attitude and his unbending support that pulled her through her recent illness. Stu had a moral code that could not be denied.

Vonnie worked tirelessly in the tuck shop with Margaret Carroll from 1989 to 1993. From 1994 to 1997 Vonnie was the Convenor of the canteen at Runcorn.

From relatively early in life, Len sought active involvement in the public sphere. He had a strong social conscience and a desire to help his community. Joan's unwavering support throughout their long marriage enabled Len to realise his goals of service to the community and representation of it in Federal and Local government.

Eulogy for Our Father - Len Keogh '48 02/06/1931—10/10/2007 (Delivered 16th October 2006)

Helen – it is obvious to all of us that you and Stuart had a wonderful relationship. We know that Stuart will live in your heart and mind forever. Daniel, Jane and Amy; you have been blessed in the person of your father – sorrow will eventually turn to acceptance – always remember your dad as the wonderful, warm, loving, happy human being that he was.

Stuart Norman Simpson Tasker now is the hour when we must say goodbye – may you enjoy forever the presence of the God you served so faithfully throughout your life – may the Lord hold you forever in the palm of his hand, goodbye good friend.

Live Jesus in our hearts.

VONNIE WATERS
R.I.P 7TH JUNE 2007



Dad was born at home and died at home. Leonard Joseph Keogh entered the world, and left it, enveloped in the love of his family.

Family life meant a great deal to Len in his roles as husband, father, grandfather, brother and son. He saw fatherhood as his most important responsibility. In this he was firm but always

Len was born into a political family during the difficult times of the Great Depression. His father, John, whose parents were Irish Immigrants, was the last Mayor of South Brisbane before the amalgamation of the North and South Brisbane's councils. Len's mother Agnes also had Irish ancestry and all things Irish were of great interest to him.

As a boy, the youngest of six children including a twin, Len read adventure stories, collected stamps, played the mouth organ, played rugby league and listened with his family to serials on the radio, including "Dad and Dave", "Marten's Corner" and "Greenbottle". He attended St. Ita's Convent School with the Ursuline Nuns and then Saint Laurence's College under the firm guidance of the Christian Brothers. Weekends were spent

going to Grandma's at Sandgate, and the Broadway picture theatre at Woolloongabba. He was in the Church Youth Club and played tennis. He was also a keen fan of the cricket. Family holidays were spent at Margate. He joined the school cadet corps and watched his older brothers go to war whilst the girls worried at home.

Len's first job was as a cadet draughtsman at a shipping yard. He maintained a keen interest in building and construction throughout his life, and owned and managed a concreting business at the time he first entered Parliament.

Len and Joan met at a dance at Cloudland where he literally swept her off her feet. Joan says that he was a good dancer, although not always willing. They married in 1953 and had six children under twelve years when Len first stood for Parliament for the Australian Labor Party.

Len was not successful at his first tilt at Parliament. He stood against a formidable opponent, but defeat did not deter him. Indeed, setbacks always only served to make Len more determined. He tried again at the next Federal election in 1969 – this time in Bowman, and won.

In recent times Len noted the difficulties faced by talented members of the community with aspirations to stand for public office, who despite their outstanding qualities and hard work, lack the backing of large organisations. He saw the need for Parliament to be truly representative of wide cross-

sections of the community. He knew that a healthy democracy required the voices of ordinary men and women to be heard and acted upon. Len considered that nowadays our Parliaments lack the diversity of representation that was evident less than a generation ago.

Persistence, determination, diligence and fortitude were etched into Len's character. Over a period of almost thirty years, he stood for eleven elections winning six in this district. He represented Bowman in the Federal Parliament for a total of twelve years and was Chairman of Redlands Shire for three years. He was not re-elected as Chairman and largely retired from public life.

Len throughout his active involvement in the community, contributed to the considerable development of this district. He had a great understanding of the needs of the people. He knew how to bring together diverse groups and interests, achieving practical outcomes for the benefit of the wider community.

Len kept a plaque permanently displayed in his office with the words:-

"Press on- Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; the world is full of educated failures. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Len's persistence and determination were abundantly

evident in his long battle against prostate cancer. He never gave up pursuing every available treatment, no matter how uncomfortable or inconvenient. And throughout this time, by his side, was Joan his anchor; his rock; his love; providing support and encouragement. Joan diligently kept the large extended family informed of Len's progress during this difficult period.

Len was a gentle man and a gentleman- amiable, genial and caring. He patiently listened to the views and concerns of others, offering thoughtful advice and encouragement as well as practical solutions. He did not seek out accolades or desire aggrandizements. He was sustained by the love of his family as well as his religious faith. His Sunday Missal was always close by and well thumbed.

Len bore the physical pain of his illness largely in silence. His characteristic perseverance and strength of mind now helped him focus on his journey through to the next life. As the end approached he was surrounded by prayers and love.

Len lives on through the lives of his six children and his nineteen grand-children. He is part of them, as they are part of him, and his memory is sustained through Joan's enduring love and devotion to their family. Len departed this world in the knowledge that his purpose had been fulfilled and that those he leaves behind will take special care of each other. His life and his values are worthy of being reflected on by us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson asked himself what it is to have

succeeded in life? He concluded as follows:

***“To laugh often and much,
To win the respect of
intelligent people
And the affection of children,
To earn the appreciation of
honest critics...
To appreciate beauty,***



***To find the best in others,
To leave the world a bit better,
Whether by a healthy child, a
garden patch
Or a redeemed social
condition,
To know even one life has
breathed easier
Because you lived,
This is to have succeeded.”***

Len succeeded in life and this success is his gift to Joan, his children and grandchildren, his brother, sisters and extended family, his friends and also his community.

We love you Dad... Mum, we love you and thank you.
Bob Ward Snr, Di Taylor & Len Keogh

Tribute to Thomas Joseph Honer ~ 7.12.1924~30.10.2007

Accepting the self-evident and indisputable fact that God has made each of us unique, it may still be reasonable to assert that Tom Honer was more "unique" than others. Or expressed in another way, the mold in

which Tom was formed certainly seemed to be different from that which shaped the character of most people. That is to say that Tom Honer was a "character" - different but lovable, unpredictable but amusing, volatile but reliable.

Those of us who had the good fortune of knowing Tom in our "growing up" years came to recognize that we benefited enormously from the experience of having Tom as a colleague and a friend. His academic strengths lay in English, History and Latin, leavened by a sense of humour ever present and ready to be alerted by the unexpected and the innocuous. He would have been quite comfortable in the company of the Classical Scholars of earlier Ages.

It could never be said that it would have been possible for Tom to have remained inconspicuous for any length of time in any group in which ideas and opinions were being exchanged – and it was not the physical fact that Tom was taller than most of us that made Tom's presence more obvious. Rather it would be more likely to be the novelty of his arguments, the confidence and assertiveness of the presentation of soundly-based propositions that would command the attention, and frequently, the admiration of others. Because Tom did read well and also widely – not necessarily in a way that would gain him high marks in set examinations but in a way that gave him a broad outlook on life - often a viewpoint on matters and affairs that would conflict with the general appraisal of less analytically-minded or perceptive individuals.

The fact that Tom did think deeply would probably go a long way in explaining why he was so passionate. And Tom was certainly passionate! The perception of injustice in any form would be sufficient to goad Tom into denouncing the perpetrators and, as he saw it, identifying the steps required to restore fairness and justice.

And, of course, still vividly in the minds of those of us at St. Laurence's College in the earlier years of the 1940's would be Tom's persistent denunciation of the injustices inflicted upon the Irish people by the English. Although we respected the validity of his arguments, Tom was well aware that we regarded his obsession, as we saw it, with a deal of amusement and, although he took the teasing in good spirit, it never succeeded in the least of ever denting his enthusiasm and earnestness. Even Brother Adams, the College Principal at the time of our Senior years, might take advantage of some historical event to participate in some gentle and good-natured needling.

So in retrospect, we see the experiences of those College days as emphasizing in our memories, images of a passionate and acutely-aware personality truly worthy of our respect, our admiration and our affection.

It has become a matter of regret to me to realize that many subsequent decades of our lives passed without our having learnt more of each other and of our respective families. From the time that we completed our

Secondary education at St. Laurence's at the end of 1943, contact between us became spasmodic, almost random and certainly very infrequent. Sadly the catalyst for the renewal of our association was the passing of Mary, Tom's loving and supportive wife of 48 years and the mother of their five children of whom, as I have since discovered Tom was so proud. On reading of Mary's death, I did attend her funeral Service at the Nazareth House Chapel and for the first time in many years was able to meet up with Tom again. Even then it took some time before we saw more of each other. Tom was still living at Blackbutt and his visits to Brisbane were infrequent. So it was only when Tom came to live in Brisbane that we met on a more regular basis. His health had deteriorated so that many of these visits were at Greenslopes Hospital. In this regard, I have to express my appreciation to Jan, Tom's dear friend who would phone me at times when Tom's health was not good and remind me of the need for more frequent visits.

Tom's health continued to worsen. Tom never complained. However, at one stage when he had been admitted to Intensive Care, he could not help but reveal that his doctors were concerned, not only about his longer term prognosis but even of his immediate future. Tom fought back. However, his mobility had become increasingly compromised and even before his sister, Mary, died in November 2003, he was permanently confined to his bed.

Perhaps one can be excused for

feeling that one's innate skepticism has been subjected to an unfair testing by the events of that time and those occurring almost exactly two years later. In a phone conversation in late October 2005, the usually unexcitable Tom seemed, certainly not excited, but nevertheless quite buoyant, when he said that arrangements had been made for his sister Mary (also known as Sister Teresa Alphonsus, a former Mother Superior of the Nazareth Sisters) who was then a bed-ridden patient at Nazareth House, to visit him at the Nursing Home where Tom, also bed-ridden, was residing. Apparently the logistics involved in this exercise were quite challenging. A few days later, Tom phoned again, to say that his sister had died suddenly before the visit had been able to take place. Surely there would be no justification for reading into the events the symbolism of a sister giving up her earthly residence for the benefit of her younger brother.

Sister Teresa's former room at Nazareth House was then offered to Tom and he resided at Nazareth House for his allotted remaining years. And, then, two years later Tom died suddenly about the same time of the year, within a day or two of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, days of special significance for Catholics of the vintage of Sister Teresa Alphonsus and Tom.

Over the past two years, a mutual Class mate of Tom and mine, Bob Colbran, and I have visited Tom on a regular, but perhaps not sufficiently frequent basis. We think the visits

were helpful to Tom. He always graciously expressed his enjoyment of them. But, certainly, Bob and I derived much pleasure, satisfaction and stimulation from them. Because Tom never did lose the capacity to introduce life and interest into a discussion, our visits covered much territory and many subjects. Bob and I will miss the visits.

Tom lived a full and rich life. My part in it comprised only a very small section of it in the context of both time and influence. But I feel privileged to have participated in those two



significant periods — the maturation of youth into the ripening of manhood, and the concluding years of reflection when a man can look back and assess his own contribution to the common pool of human sagacity and quality. Much can be concluded by witnessing that in those last days, Tom seemed well pleased.

by Arthur Toohy 6 November 2007

Tom Honer '43 at Senior Old Boys' Lunch

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

St Laurence's Old Boys'

Operation Anode - Solomon Islands

Craig Rickards & Tim Lewis

Craig Rickards 1986/1987 and Tim Lewis 1995 served with the Australian Army on Operation Anode - the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). They were deployed from January – April 2007.

RAMSI began in 2003 at the request of the Solomon Islands Government to restore law and order following years of ethnic unrest.

Craig and Tim are members of the Australian Army Reserve serving with 9 Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment and 25/49 Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment respectively.

Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Craig Rickards fulfilled the role of the Company Sergeant Major and Corporal Tim Lewis a Section Commander with Combat Team Southern Cross which was a part of the Combined Task Force made up of Defence Force personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. These soldiers are supporting police from 16 nations, including the Australian Federal Police, in backing up local authorities.

Craig and Tim were a part of a Combat Team that comprises 103 people, all mainly Army Reservists from all occupations, inclusive of Police Officers to Teachers to Mechanics. In their civilian occupations Craig works with Westpac as State Manager Transactional Banking and Tim as a

High School Teacher.

Craig has been a member of the Army Reserve for 20 years and Tim for 10 years and this was their first operational deployment. There was another link to the college with Private Bill Moloney also serving with the Combat Team, Bill is the son of Old Boy Peter Moloney and nephew to Old Boys Greg and Michael ('86/'86).

The tour was a real eye opener to all of us and just to see the smiles on the children's faces when you hand them a small gift made the time away from family and friends very rewarding.

One of the saddest pieces of news that we heard whilst we were away was the passing of Stu Tasker. Our prayers at the time were extended to his family and the college community.

Craig and Tim would also like to extend their thanks to fellow old boys and friends that sent messages



of good will whilst we were away. Since they have been home Craig and Tim have settled back into normal life in their civilian occupations and their normal Army Reserve roles.



WO2 Craig Rickards on the left and CPL Time Lewis on the right. WO2 Craig Rickards in front on patrol.



CPL Tim Lewis having a rest. **A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

A bit of a surprise to hear from you after all these years! I was contacted by the SLOBA some months ago relaying a message from Miro/Mike Didyk to which I responded (twice) but got no reply so I gave up! Not a very good effort on my part! You have used my home e-mail address which I don't look at very regularly as you can judge by my tardiness in replying to you.

My business e-mail (which I look at most days) is:
jeff@tregalic.co.uk

Anyway, here you are coming out of my past life with all those memories sloshing about. I guess it is a bit late to think about getting to this reunion but maybe next time. I was in Brisbane for a quick family visit in 2002 but didn't have time to see many others outside my immediate family. Am planning another trip in the next year or so particularly as my parents are both getting on now. Now that we have made contact I will certainly be more organized and make a point to get to see some of you guys.

My brother Pete lives in West End and my sister has a place just off the Ipswich road (not sure exactly where) while my parents live out in the

'bundoo' in a small town called Yarraman - have you heard of it?

You might remember that I joined the Navy after leaving Uni and trained in the UK for 3 years. Met a girl while in England who came out to Oz when I returned and we got married (I was 22!). We had 4 kids over the next several years (3 girls and a boy) during which time I returned to UK for an exchange service of 3 years. After being back in Oz for five more years we decided to return to UK to live in 1976. I managed to transfer from the RAN to the RN so the move was fairly painless. Since then I have served around the world including time in Norway and visits to the US, Far East and even Western Australia. Have now retired and am living in Hampshire which is on the South coast of England near to one the major naval ports. Have updated my address entry in the attached excel file (re-named) so you can update my row in the master record.

My wife and I are still together (coming up to 40 years!!!) and now have 4 grandchildren (2 boys and 2 girls). It is true that Grandparents get on with their grandchildren well - they all have a common 'enemy' the PARENTS!

My 3 girls live in UK while my son Tim lives and works in Alberta, Canada.

I still work and am a partner in a training and Internet company which keeps me off the streets but will never make me rich! Have a look at one of our sites from which I administer most our training courses:
<http://www.tregalic.co.uk>
Will have to think about the photos as



sometimes it is better to remember each other with hair and without a paunch! However, I guess I will sort something out if/when I get the courage! By the way I still think of you as slim with lots of curly brown hair!



Surf Life Saving Queensland director Danny Hoyland (second from left) with St Laurence's College students at the opening of their mid-year art exhibition "Between the Flags", (from left) Oliver Hoelscher, James Hunter and Sam Hunter ART students from St Laurence's College, South Brisbane, have helped paint a brighter future for Surf Life Saving Queensland

I live in a big old house which now has too many rooms for us but with family visits we can't see ourselves in anything smaller - as long as the woodworms/termites keep holding hands it will be OK! I think the house dates from 1860 but that is not old here - my second daughter and her husband are doing up an old farmhouse in Shropshire which has some features in the roof dating from around 1300!

I see that Jim O'Brian lives in Vic. My wife has relatives there (near Drouin) and I did visit them in 2002. Any more news of him? I still remember those Saturday morning breakfasts with steak and eggs - yum - can't remember when I last ate steak as it is vastly expensive here and all my kids became vegetarians - need I say more.

Jeff Murphy with his son & 3rd daughter

Lifesaving collection by young artists.

Three hundred dollars was raised for beach safety equipment at the school's mid-year exhibition, "Between the Flags", which ran from July 13-15 in West End's Circle Gallery.

And, as 2007 officially celebrates the Year of the Lifesaver, the theme couldn't have

been more apt.

Head of Art Neil Kelly said many of the boys felt closely connected to our state beaches and their masterpieces creatively expressed these ties.

"One of the major works on display was a four metre long by three metre high mural done by 60 of the boys," he said.

"It was a wonderful reinterpretation of a 1940s Australian beach painting."

Among the exhibition's many visitors was Surf Life Saving Queensland director and past St Laurence's student **Danny Hoyland '71**.

Mr Hoyland said he was stunned by the depth of talent that was showcased.

"When I went to St Laurence's 30 years ago the only arty subject was music, and even it was pretty conservative," he said.

"Being arty and a bloke wasn't the done thing so I was most impressed to see the school has opened its horizons.

"And the students' art certainly showed that they knew the message - swim between the flags."

But this wasn't the only message portrayed in the gallery - Year 12 student Sean O'Connor had something else to say.



ouncing back. Thanks DJ Taylor

PREFECTS 1957

BACK: Peter Hunt, Graham Vass, Brian Hambrecht, Grame Sullivan,
Barry King, Terry Handran
FRONT: John Tidey, Richard Malouf, Geoff Arnold, Graham Baxter,
John Taske

“I did a series of four different paintings, which interpreted the issues of poverty, drought, pollution and war to try and raise peoples awareness,” he said.



“It was a good exhibition and it made everyone feel really significant.



“Having our work all done up for others to see was great.”

Article by Amy Simmons
Catholic Leader 5/08/2007

R.I.P.

Our prayers & thoughts are with **John & Pat Moffat** at the very sad loss of their daughter Katherine (Kate) and Pat’s father Edward (Ward) McCabe within days of each other . John has not been well either and he has a very sick brother in New Zealand.



THE CLASS OF 1952 AT THE 2007 SENIOR OLD BOYS LUNCH
Des McNamara, John Ryan, Peter Carroll, Tony Hogan, John Clarke,
Bernie Sturdy, Denis Long, John Smith & John Bowden
Absent: Bill Flannery

Cyril Witham ’31 at the 2007 Senior Old Boys’ Lunch. Cyril is the oldest known living Old Boy of St Laurence’s College

Jim Skelton ‘46 & Noel Ferry ‘46 at the 2007 Annual Dinner
Jim was the oldest Old Boy at the dinner this year with Noel only a couple of months behind him. Noel