

What our past students are doing (continued)



Justin Eadie (1997)

On leaving school in 1997, Justin undertook Hospitality Studies at Swinburne, gaining a Diploma in Hospitality Management. He then spent six months at Hamilton Island in the Whitsundays, taking on the role of a Porter for the island. He returned to Melbourne to begin a career at Bunnings Warehouse, at the same time working part time at the Paradise Hotel in Clematis as a waiter. His full time job at Bunnings Distribution centre led him to become a Receiving Supervisor and ultimately Operations Supervisor.

After a period of 7 years, he moved on and now works at Ray White Real Estate Ferntree Gully. The culture of the office and the impressive results have expanded the business to be one of the important Realty businesses in Knox and surrounding suburbs.

In Memoriam



James Patrick Kelleher (1992 - 2008)

James arrived at St Joseph's in 2005 as a keen Year 7 student. His parents were worried as to how he would adjust, as several years earlier James was diagnosed with a serious heart condition, but they were pleased with his progress as James was an enthusiastic and popular member of his Year 10 Class.

After suffering an attack at school, James survived another five weeks before dying peacefully at the Children's Hospital on October 22. At the funeral his father paid tribute to James' courageous outlook as he participated in all sporting carnivals and never wanted to miss a PE class. James will be missed by many.



Cameron Coney (1987 - 2008)

Cameron, Dux of the College in 2004, and was studying engineering at Melbourne University when he died on November 3rd, 2008.

Tribute from Paul Reilly (2004)

Cam was a good student and an honest, loyal person and most importantly a good friend.

Knowing Cam throughout his years at St Joseph's and into university it wasn't hard to see that he had a passion for learning. Even at university when we use to catch up, he never lost the motivation to excel in his studies.

He was a dedicated, hard working student at St Joseph's who always strived for his best performance. His selflessness was seen at

school as he would always help out those without hesitation. These selfless acts continued post school as he always helped out others and tutored high school students in mathematics and science.

You knew with Cam, that what you saw is what you got; a genuine honest respectable mate. He was generally a quiet guy at school but he was never short of conversation when it came to metal music or car racing.

Cam was a genuinely nice guy whose company and friendship is appreciated in the years that I was able to know him. His hard work, dedication and passion for learning throughout his schooling and into university were an inspiration for others and he will be missed greatly by all those who knew him.

Past Students Deceased

The organisers of the recent reunions have advised the College that the following past students of the College have passed away.

1966 - Hans Deen, Patrick Doran, **1967** - Chris Neeson (1974), **1978** - Shane Price (2007), Gary Vaessen, Paul Edge

Reunions 2009

Our number of reunions is growing every year as year groups realise the value of getting together to renew friendships.

In 2009 we would like to plan for 10, 20, 30, 40 year reunions. That is, the Year 12 Class of 1999, 1989, 1979 and the Year 7 Class of the 1969.

If anyone from the 1999 (Year 12), 1989 (Year 12), 1979 (Year 12), 1969 (Year 7) groups is interested in joining an organising committee for a reunion, please contact the College and we will assist with your planning. Experience has shown that successful reunions occur when they are organised by people from those years.

Contact Peter Naughtin at 9758 2000 or email pnaughtin@stjosephs.com.au

News on Past Students and Staff



If you would like to send your profile or have any past student news - marriages, births, deaths that you want published in the newsletter, please send your item of news, photo, or profile to St Joseph's College (5 Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully) or email to the College website - www.stjosephs.com.au/our_community/past_students

Phillip Sakellaridis was a pupil at St Joseph's in 1991 (Y12), and in 2008 returned as Year 12 Coordinator. We congratulate Phil and his wife Klara on the birth of their first son, Oliver, born in September.

Phillip, Klara and Oliver

Update Contact Details

If you change your contact details, please let the Past Student Network know. Send change of address, mobile, e-mail to Peter Naughtin (Past Student Coordinator) at the College - pnaughtin@stjosephs.com.au

Advertising Your Business

If you are interested in advertising in the Past Students' Newsletter, please send your business card, or details of your business, and this will be scanned and placed in the back section of the newsletter.

NO ADVERTISING COSTS. Our request is that you make a small donation (\$20-\$50) to the Salesian Missions. For further details, please contact Peter Naughtin on 758 2000, pnaughtin@stjosephs.com.au



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St JOSEPHS COLLEGE
FERNTREE GULLY

St Joseph's College Past Students Newsletter

December 2008

Message from the Principal

In the past few weeks we have made our annual contribution to the number of past pupils. The graduation of this year's senior class has seen some fine young men finish their time at the College.

We each have our own story to tell of our school days. As I reminded my own class of 1967 (Year 7) at our reunion, there also comes a time to own what has become of us and what we have made of our opportunities.

I say this not as a way of relieving the College of its obligation to provide each boy with the best preparation it can, instead as a way of reminding each boy of his obligation to make the most of his life without excuses.

In that context, it was uplifting to hear the College captains speak eloquently and passionately of their time here, but also reassuring to hear of their confidence in the future. A Salesian school aims not just to provide for the here and now of a boy's life, but for the next stages as well.

Just as importantly for young men was the mention of the bonds that they have formed with each other. In life we rarely travel better alone. For each boy to have built significant relationships is a great insurance policy for the future and a sign that he is a capable human being.

And if he leaves as a good person informed by the values of the Church and the Salesians then we can claim to have measured up to Don Bosco's call for his students to be good *Christians and honest citizens*.

May I wish all past pupils a happy and holy Christmas and I look forward to meeting many of you at the reunions in 2009.

Vin Feeney
PRINCIPAL



Scott Woolard, Vin Feeney, Lincoln Ladd, Justin Woolard at 2008 graduation dinner

News Around the College Graduating Class 2008

Congratulations to Year 12 Graduates from the Class of 2008. They now join the ranks of the past students of the College. The Class of 2008 was farewelled at a whole school assembly, where Year 12 Coordinator (past student Phillip Sakellaridis) presented the graduation class to the whole College. On Friday 23rd of November, 118 students commenced their celebrations with Mass at St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully, followed by dinner at The Grand on Cathies Lane in Wantirna.



School Captains
Tim Grimshaw and
Aaron King address
the students



Class of 2008 enter the assembly hall



Graduation Ceremony 23rd November

What our past students are doing

Rin Van Raay (1966 - 69)

After four years at St Joseph's, Rin completed his secondary education at 'Rupertwood' in Sunbury as a boarder. From there he went to work in a nursery in The Patch, but just nine months later, joined his father on their own property where they had made the transition from market gardening to wholesale nursery. This type of work appealed to him, as the business involved a great variety of skills including building, irrigation plumbing, driving, hands on work, propagation and lots more. To this day Rin is still learning. He completed an apprenticeship under his father and they worked together for nearly 30 years, until his father's retirement.

He played some local football but then involved himself with tennis and this is how he met his wife, Val. They were married in 1980 and have four wonderful kids aged from 27 down to 19. He always enjoyed singing, and for a while was in the Lourdes Boys Choir with Fr. Kraan. Two years ago he joined a local cappella group called 'Sweet Sassafras'. He is also active in the local parish community.

Rin said that the horticulture industry has changed enormously since those early days: plastic replaced terra cotta and metal containers, modernization of bulk potting mixes, controlled release fertilizers, irrigation controllers,



computers and more recently water recycling and treatment. His business has created a niche in the industry, supplying exotic ornamentals and up to 7 people are employed at peak times. This year his son Paul, joined the family business full-time and they have had a busy year, despite the ongoing drought.

After 36 years he said he still enjoys his work and hopes to be growing plants in the beautiful Dandenongs for a while yet.

Justin O'Hagan (1966 - 1970)

In 1971 Justin finished high school at Rochester in Central Victoria, going on to complete a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Education at The University of Melbourne before teaching mathematics and science for several years in Australia and in the UK.



Justin completed post-graduate studies in IT at Monash University in 1982 and embarked on a career working as a programmer and technical consultant in Australia and the UK. In 1991, Justin joined Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) in Melbourne and has since had a range of

technical and management roles for the company in Australia, the USA and globally.

Justin now lives in Brisbane, Queensland with his wife and two sons and is a global consultant for Hitachi in the management of high performance, high capacity data storage.

Cosimo Piro (1971)



Cos attended St Joseph's College from 1967 to 1971 and completed Year 12 at Upwey High in 1972. From 1973 he had a diverse job path ranging from farm hand, seasonal picking jobs, console operator, cleaner, postman, gardener at Lilydale Council, builder's labourer, concreter, machine operator, landscape gardener, administration positions, property manager, and handyman. Cos worked mainly in the landscaping field where he was foreman for a number of years before he started his own business, employing four others.

In 1986 he began working in an office environment at Victoria Curriculum and Assessment Board and although he had little experience, he soon adapted and became Administration Officer organising exam centres for the VCE program throughout Victoria. From 1988 to 1996 he worked at Victoria College, which later became Deakin University, and held several positions, including being in charge of postal enrolments, past student records, face to face enrolments, and co-ordinating examinations and graduations across numerous campuses. His main focus from 1997 has been managing family property.

He sums up his life with the motto 'give unconditionally, receive graciously'. Cos has settled in Upwey with his partner of 31 years and three children and considers himself the luckiest man alive!



Andy Knorr (1971)

Andy attended St Joseph's to complete Form 5 (Year 11) in 1971, after four years boarding at 'Rupertwood' College Sunbury. 1971 was a formative year for Andy as he developed strong friendships and enjoyed the greater freedom after boarding school. After leaving school, Andy worked with his father, sculptor Hans Knorr, at his workshop and gallery in Emerald. Later he established an organic

market garden in South Gippsland with his wife Pip Griffith.

Andy's love of timber, engendered by his father, soon led him to develop a business building pole framed sheds and houses. His concern for forestry conservation led Andy to join, and lead the local conservation group in Yarram, in an effort to influence and improve forestry practices. This interest led him to look at new ways of sawmilling so that small diameter and plantation hardwoods could be viably milled. He started work on a Radial sawmill system in 1988 where Andy commenced construction of experimental sawing machines and then a mill in Yarram in 1990.



In 1993 the timber was first used in a major project in the Award Winning Eitham Library where all external cladding and internal linings are Radial sawn. In another major project in 1995, the Cultural Centre at Uluru was extensively constructed of radially sawn timber. In 2005 Andy and his shareholders established a new company, Radial Corporation with the objective of making Radial a mainstream sawmilling technology.

Andy's wife, Pip Griffith became Principal at Traralgon Secondary College. Pip and Andy have three children, Kristin, a pharmacist, Stella a mechanical design engineer and Alex, who is currently in Germany on a study placement with Adidas, is also training as an engineer.



Tim Blandon (1978)

Tim and his wife Sharyne married in 1985 and have two boys; one has just completed first year at Monash and the other is going into Year 11. They've travelled widely across Australia and New Zealand on some wonderful extended family holidays. Favourite family places are Mooloolaba and Falls Creek and bushwalking. Tim's only vice is flyfishing, especially in Tasmania.

Career wise Tim started drafting before weaving his way through various IT and business management roles in a 20 year career with BP, before working for four years as a senior public service manager. Tim has a Master of Business in Information Management and is now consulting in this field.



Steve Atkinson (1978)

Steve left St Joseph's College in 1976 and attended Ferntree Gully High School. After completing Form 6, he drifted to the beach for about a year and then into air-conditioning with a mate, Wayne Compton. He managed supermarkets for a couple of years before joining the family air-conditioning company, Pact Heating & Cooling. He now owns and manages the company. One thing

he demands from his staff is punctuality and he remembers Bill Holligan making him write "Punctuality is an act of courtesy to others", 500 times.

Reunions

Congratulations to the organisers of the successful reunions held this year and the great work done by the committees who tracked down past-students and planned the venues for the reunions. Without their work, the reunions would not be possible. Three reunions were held this year (1966, 1967, 1978) where great numbers attended each reunion. Interest in reunions is growing and we are confident 2009 will be just as successful. Please consider joining an organizing committee if your year's reunion is coming up.

1966 Reunion



1967 Reunion



1978 Reunion



1966 Reunion

Organised by Mike Bicknell and Kevin Celli-Bird at the Ferntree Gully Bowling Club on Saturday October 3rd, this reunion was attended by over 30 people. On Sunday 4th October, the 1966 group gathered again at the College for drinks and a tour of the school to recall the early days and marvel at the developments at the College since their school days.



Back Row L-R: Rin Van Raay, Tony Furno, Bruce Smith, Kevin Celli Bird, Greg Sidebottom, Malcolm Sword, Keith Isbester
2nd Row L-R: Tom Looten, George Van Graas, Peter Eijsvogel, Peter Faella, John Charles, Leo Groenewegen, Peter Tomlinson, John Williams
2nd Row front L-R: Justin O'Hagan, Bill Holligan (teacher), Mick Bicknell, Gerard Feleppa, Steve Henderson, Adrian Papworth, Phil Hilder
Front Row L-R: Greg Nelson, Mick Smith, Greg Steele, Tom Moren, Alan Coppin, Steve Connell, Ian Maguire

1967 Reunion

Organised by Tony Bicknell and Cosimo Piro on November 15-16. On Saturday 15th, the group gathered at the College for pre dinner drinks, a tour of the College and then moved to the RSL Club at Upwey for dinner. On Sunday 16th, 20 people from the group met again at Valdocco Campus for a barbecue lunch. To commemorate this occasion, a DVD has been made and will be sent out to all who attended. Following the success of the reunion, the group plans to meet annually for lunch. Details will be made available next year.

PS: The organisers never found a contact address for Michael Muller. Please contact the College or Tony Bicknell if you know his address.



Bill Holligan, Lynn Hilder, Dale Brown, Martin Cahill, Stephen Taylor, Tony Bicknell, Jack Buis, Cosimo Piro, John Folino, Malcolm Paul, Tony Brockie, Robin Wright, Stephen Buckland, Jim Camm, Tony Bester, John Oates, Jos Bekkers, Danny Verrocchi, Brian Phillips, Danny Zarro, Andy Knorr, Kevin Meredith, Vin Feeney, John Baker, Stan Somers, Corrie Hovens, Mick Spruhan, Mick Altamore, Chris Lane, Richard Price

1978 Reunion

Organised by Paul Dawson and Robert Vertessy, this group met for pre dinner drinks at the College and went on a tour to see the changes at the school. Dinner was held at the Ferntree Gully Bowling Club with over 50 people attending. Paul has organised for a DVD to be produced of the occasion and this will be sent to all people who came to the reunion.

Paul, with the help of his sister Suzanne, spent countless hours framing old photos of past pupils (Class of 1978) and then donated them to the College. St Joseph's would like to thank them for their thoughtfulness, creative work and generous donation. These photos will be displayed at the College for all to admire.



Back Row: Danny Fitzgerald, Paul Millers, Wayne Compton, Robert Den Elzen, Mick Findlay, Henry Graffen, Paul Graffen, Edward Novatny, Peter Healey, Ken Smith, Marten Koomen, Milton Abraham, Mick Quinn, Greg Loel, David Mackay, Anthony Kolmus, Warren Bathgate, Max Hill, Gill Gipps, Paul Dawson
3rd Row: Mark Johnstone, Robert Vertessy, Tony Centrone, Adrian Gavin, Gerard Starns, John Mathieson, Phillip Dingjan, John Polasek, Brendan Johnson, Mark Bowler, Mark Gilbert, Damian Murphy, Phillip McMahon, Vin Feeney (Principal)
2nd Row: Stephen McNally, Damon Welsh, David Rosenbrock, Peter McCluskey, Mark King, Victor Streckfuss, Paul Starns, Peter Ashdown, Ken Uber, Phillip Porter, Robert Janky, Danny Anderson, Benny D'Angelo
Front Row: Edward Horton-Crundall, Neil Batchelor, Bill Holligan (teacher), Mick Beyer, Phillip Backman, Kevin Niklaus, Tim Blandon, Stephen Atkinson, Phillip Lodge, Peter Cheers, Grant Blake