

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

The Salesian Province Centre has recently launched an exciting new project entitled 'The Cagliari Project'. It is named after the first Salesian missionary, Bishop John Cagliari. The project aims to give young people an opportunity to volunteer in an overseas or Australian mission for a year. Currently the project is developing volunteer sites in Samoa and Thailand. Project Director Lauren Bicknell comments on the motivation behind starting such a project: "There is such a strong commitment to social justice among the youth of Australia. We want to be able to give them an opportunity to take these passions, put them to use and to see the connection with the message of Don Bosco and the Gospel".

The volunteers will work together with already established Salesian communities in schools, oratories and youth centres. They will take on a role such as: teacher, youth minister, counsellor, social worker, labourer or nurse, depending on the need of the specific community. Potential candidates go through an application and interview process. If they are accepted into the Project they will also attend a formation retreat in order to prepare them for their mission work.

"Working in a mission is a major challenge but it is also a life changing experience" says Bicknell who worked in a mission in Zambia for two years as a teacher.

The Cagliari Project is currently seeking volunteers for 2008. All people have a responsibility to work for the poor in some capacity – if you or someone you know sounds like a potential Cagliari Project missionary, please visit our website www.cagliari.org.au for more information. The project needs people who love kids and want to work for the poor in a fun, crazy, challenging and wonderful year that will never be forgotten!



Reunions 2008

In 2008 we would like to plan for 10, 20, 30, 40 year reunions. That is, the Year 12 Class of 1998, 1988, 1978 and the Year 7 Class of the 1968

If anyone from the 1998 (Year12), 1988 (Year12), 1978 (Year12), 1968 (Year7) groups is interested in joining an organising committee for a reunion, please contact the College and we will assist with your planning. Some committees are already at work on these reunions. 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)



1987 reunion 2007

News on Past Students and Staff

If you would like to send your profile or have any past student news - celebrations, births, marriages, deaths that you would like published in the newsletter, please send your article, photo, or profile to the College (5 Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully) or email to the College website. (www.stjosephs.com.au/ourcommunity/paststudents)

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

June 2008

Message from the Principal

Each year the Salesian Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez, puts out his *Strenna*, or what we would recognise as his 'theme' for the year. In doing so he asks all who work for, and with, the Salesians to devote themselves to a particular way of working for that year.

This year the *Strenna* is

Educate with the heart of Don Bosco for the integrated development of the life of the young, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, promoting their rights.

The staff of St Joseph's have been charged with the responsibility of reflecting on these words, and discussing how they can bring the "heart of Don Bosco" to every interaction they have with the students of our community.

This discernment reminds us all of the need to constantly reflect on our Catholic Salesian heritage when relating to the young men in our care.

This is why the *Strenna* is very important to Salesian schools. This is why a Salesian education is valued all over the world. This is why all of us remember our teachers long after we have forgotten our classes.

As you read this article, maybe you can take a moment to recall what your education at St Joseph's meant to you and recall the times when someone made you believe that you were very important as a person.

That is part of what it means to *educate with the heart of Don Bosco*.

Vin Feeney
PRINCIPAL



Mr Vin Feeney (centre) with Principals from Salesian Colleges in Australia at conference at St Joseph's College 2008

News Around the College

WORLD YOUTH DAY July 15-20 2008



How Salesian Schools are Involved

July 11 has been set aside as a Salesian Activities Day in the Dioceses. On this day, all Australian Salesian schools will congregate at Salesian College, Chadstone and join over 800 overseas visitors. This will be a memorable day for all, especially the 55 students and 15 staff from St Joseph's College who will also be attending.



On Monday, July 14, 25 students and 22 staff from St Joseph's College will travel by train to Sydney for a week of celebrations with thousands of overseas visitors. The St Joseph's party will stay at St John Bosco College in Engadine and return by train on Monday July 21. Highlight of the week will be Mass at Randwick Racecourse on Sunday, July 19, celebrated by Pope Benedict XIV. This huge gathering of young people promises to be a memorable occasion in the history of Australia.



News Around the College cont.

Trip to Italy 2008

On March 8, 2008 a group of St Joseph's College students and staff travelled to Italy visiting Rome, Turin, Florence, Siena, Bologna, Padua and Venice, returning tired but happy on April 3.

The highlight of this excursion was visiting Don Bosco's birth place and places where he started his ministry, oratory and first school – namely Valdocco, Chieri and Becchi.



Valdocco in Turin, Italy



Venice

What our past students are doing

Feature Article: Each year we present an article featuring one of our past students who has made a major contribution to our Australian community.

Rob Vertessy (1978)

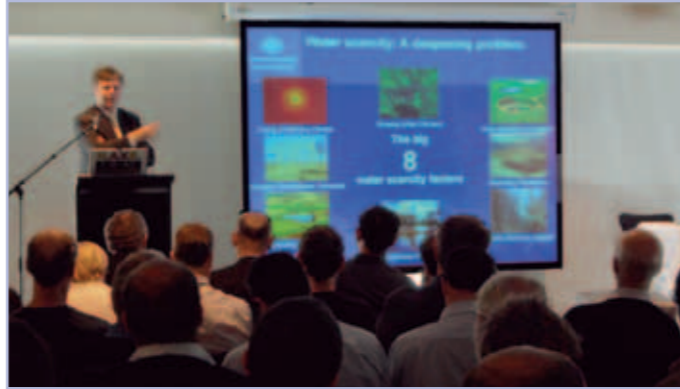
Deputy Director Bureau of Meteorology (Water Division)



Rob attended St Joseph's College between 1973 and 1978. After completing his HSC, he went to Monash University and undertook a Bachelor of Arts, graduating with First Class Honours in Physical Geography. After marrying Deb and holidaying in Europe for 6 months, he accepted a scholarship to the Australian National University in Canberra to undertake a PhD in Fluvial Geomorphology. He started in 1984 and after several years of arduous field work on the tropical estuaries

in the top-end of the Northern Territory, Rob was granted his PhD and took up a research scientist position in CSIRO's Division of Land and Water in 1988. There he became a specialist in forest hydrology and computer modelling of catchment behaviour. In 2002, Rob became Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology and as part of this appointment, was awarded a Professorship at Monash University.

In 2004, Rob was appointed Chief of CSIRO Land and Water, an international leader in water research with over 500 staff located in 10 labs across Australia, a position he held for 3 years. His task was to reform a Division that had not been reaching its potential in terms of scientific and industry impact, and was not performing well financially. With 550 staff spread across 10 sites around Australia, and over 300 external research contracts operating at any one time, this proved to be quite a handful. The challenge was to lift scientific productivity, bring in more external contracts and ensure that the work they did made an impact of the way Australia's land and water resources were managed. He restructured the Division, recruited some top senior scientists and built up a great business development team. They did a lot of workplace culture change to address morale issues and a lot of strategic science and business planning that paid off. By the end of his three year term as Chief, CSIRO Land and Water had become one of the highest performing Divisions in the organisation.



At this time, an opportunity arose to a secondment at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). The Howard Government wanted to accelerate the pace of national water reform and thus established an Office of Water Resources to develop new policies and programs that could get the country moving strategically on the water issue.

Rob was inducted into that small group to develop a water information strategy and contribute to other aspects of what eventually became known as the National Plan for Water Security. It was challenging work, with frequent meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard and the Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, and a license to pitch a transformative water policy agenda. This \$10 billion, 10-year plan was announced by the Prime Minister on Australia Day 2007 and is now being implemented. It has remained largely intact after review by the incoming Rudd government, and has been boosted with additional resources, now representing a Commonwealth investment of \$12.9 billion over 10 years.

After his secondment to PM&C ended, Rob returned to CSIRO for a while and sought approval to be seconded into the Bureau of Meteorology as Chief Hydrologist to start implementing the water information element of the national plan. Having conceived the strategy, he was keen to implement it, and was most grateful that CSIRO supported him to take on this challenge. After a year in this new role he chose to leave CSIRO (after 20 years there) and formally joined the Bureau so that he could see the long-term implementation plan through to finality.

He is now Deputy Director of the Bureau and in charge of the newly established Water Division. His Division is responsible for developing the Australian Water Resources Information System (AWRIS), conducting national water resource assessments and running the national flood warning and forecasting service.



At the moment, most of his time is involved in recruiting an additional 120 staff, procuring new IT infrastructure, brokering data sharing arrangements with the states and territories and establishing a new office in Canberra. It's a very busy but rewarding position and he thinks it is going to make a big impact on the way we manage our water resources in the future. (See www.bom.gov.au/water for more information)

Rob's wife, Deb, is a Clinical and Organisational Psychologist who has her own private practice. Rob and Deb have two gorgeous children, Luka (11) and Zoe (9), both adopted from South Korea, a place they now visit regularly. Rob and his family live in Canberra but visit Melbourne frequently.

Paul Dawson (1978)



Paul completed HSC in 1978. After some overseas travel, he enrolled at RMIT to study and finished his Business degree with a major in Local Government. He worked at the Shire of Sherbrooke (Upwey) and then the City of Knox, at the time when the City of Knox Council was the most outstanding local council in Australia. His next career change was into private enterprise where he went to work for his father in his plastics business in Bayswater, eventually buying his father's business. After a failed partnership, he left

Melbourne and headed north to Sydney for 2 years and has lived in Sydney for more than 18 years, but still misses Melbourne. He lives in Sylvania Waters with his wife, Elizabeth and they have 2 wonderful children Jack, age 8 and Kate age 6.

His career path moved on and he was a senior plastics buyer with Reckitt & Colman, a job that gave him an insight into how buyers' think. After 4 years with this firm, he left to set up his own plastics injection moulding company which he operated for 10 years. He left the business in 2000, semi-retired and took a couple of years off to enjoy life as he realised there is more in life than "being a success".

His next venture was trading on the stock market for 2 years from home, but he missed the reprieve of a work environment, so he took up some consultancy work for Local Government for a few years. He now works for a US company, 'Sealed Air' and for the last 3 years has been in charge of their Specialty Materials Division where his role is to develop new markets in boat coring, transportation, construction as well as cold chain.

In his spare time, he is President of the Sylvania Public School Parents Committee. He took up sailing when he first came to Sydney and still enjoys it very much. However, sailing has tended to take a back seat since his children came along, although his son Jack started to learn to sail at Cronulla recently. His life revolves around his family and he has a job that challenges him and enables him to keep family life and work in balance.

Ben Kettle (1998)



Ben graduated from St Joseph's in 1998. He enrolled in Prosthetics and Orthotics at La Trobe University in Bundoora and finished his Honours Year in 2002. At university, he met his wife, Nadia and they married in 2004. He first worked in a private Orthotics practice in Prahran for 18 months, then moved to another practice in Frankston for 2 years. He now works in sales, physiotherapy, podiatry and hospital markets.

He enjoys travelling and in 2006 travelled to Europe and Africa. He has also completed 2 years of pilot training part-time from 2005 – 2007 and plays in a mixed netball team.

Damian Murphy (1978)



Damian is the oldest of the Murphy brothers from Knoxfield who went to St Joseph's, starting in 1973. His brothers are Bernard (who started in 1975), Michael (1977) and John (1983). The connection continues to today with nephews currently enrolled.

After school Damian went to Monash Uni and studied economics (B.Ec (Hons)) and law (LL.B) achieving academic distinction. Further studies included courses at Harvard Law School and Melbourne Uni (LL.M).

Damian married Stephanie Caruana in 1994 and they have six children: Dominic (12), Vincent (10), Joseph (8), Elena (6), Benedict (4) and John-Paul (20 Months). Currently the family live in Surrey Hills.

After University Damian worked as a solicitor in Melbourne and then joined the National Australia Bank where he has worked for the last 15 years. At the National he has had a variety of roles, including a spell in

Sydney as the General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer for the MLC companies. Currently he is the senior-legal-officer for NAB Capital, the investment and wholesale banking arm of the Bank where he leads a team of approximately 40 legal professionals located around the world.

Outside work most of his time is spent with the family, including time at their rural retreat near Yea in Victoria. Other activities include membership of the Marriage Education Programme, facilitating pre-marriage education courses for engaged couples with Stephanie. Damian is also a member of the board of the Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics, which attempts to serve the ethics needs of Catholic health institutions and hospitals in Victoria.

David Greene (1998)



David left St Joseph's in 1998, and went to Monash Uni, Clayton where he completed a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Finance & Statistics. He worked for a year as a Barristers' Clerk in Owen Dixon Chambers and then headed overseas to backpack around North, Central and South America. After travelling for a year, he settled in Ireland for two years and worked for one of the major banks on the Money Desk, keeping positions across their main currency accounts.

He left Ireland at the end of 2006 and travelled around China and South East Asia for 3 months before returning to Melbourne. He then worked for the NAB as a Derivatives Analyst in their custody business before taking on a new role as a Corporate FX Dealer for a small broking house, Custom House.

Chris Auhl (1986)



Chris attended St. Joseph's College from 1981, and completed Year 10 in 1984. He began a career in the motor industry at the age of 17, and worked in various capacities in that field until taking the position of Used Car Manager at Heritage Holden in Lilydale. He held this position for 10 years before being invited to become New Car Manager. He worked with Heritage for 12 years and then the opportunity arose to purchase Lilydale Mitsubishi in 2003. After making this obviously stressful decision, the business seemed

doomed when, two days after the sale, all cars were severely damaged by a freak hailstorm. However, the business recovered, and has been a success ever since. Chris employs some 25 people on a full time basis. This abiding enjoyment in the car industry is due to his congenial contact with people. In 1999, he met his partner Teresa and they have a daughter, Emmersen and live in North Ringwood.

Andre Wilmann (1993)



Since leaving St Joseph's in 1993, Andre began his working career in customer service for a large air-conditioning and refrigeration manufacturer. He married Geraldine, his high school sweetheart, in 1996 and their first child, Joshua was born in 1997. He then moved into the plastics industry and worked his way up to the marketing team. He commenced an Associate Diploma in Business at TAFE, and subsequently became a Business Development Manager in the organization he worked for. In 2000, a second child, Louis was born and in the same year, Andre changed jobs

to a rival company with increased managerial responsibility, focusing on packaging applications. In 2002, Angelique, their third child and first daughter, was born.

An opportunity arose to move into Nylex as a Southern Regional Manager in 2002, controlling South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. This position involved a sales management role, ensuring that customer requirements were met. Unfortunately, Nylex went through a downsizing phase and this non-essential manufacturing plant was bought out. He was fortunate enough to obtain acceptance into Monash University "Executive Masters in Management Program," prior to take-over in early 2003.

Andre then started a National Sales role for a small company in plastic films, but found another position in 2004 as a Victorian Manager for a large, private plastic import business. His fourth child, Joelle was born in 2005. In 2006, he completed his Masters in Management and now heads a branch in contract laser cutting. He lives in Berwick and has been happily married to Geraldine for 12 yrs. He is still best friends with Jerome Walshe and John (Bud) Paduano from school. He looks forward to God's continued support and an exciting future, without any more kids.