

What our past students are doing *(continued)*.

Just before the bushfires in February, James was attacked by a man trying to break into his car outside his home. When James challenged him, he was struck on the head with a hammer, causing severe head injuries and a depressed fracture of the skull, as well as damage to an eye and an ear. Fortunately, he recovered from his injuries after 3.5 months of medical treatment. James has been greatly supported during this difficult time by his wife, Jodie, his CFA colleagues and his family. James was on leave recovering during the February bushfires, but has now returned to full time work. He enjoys his work in the CFA and the challenges such work provides. He can see his future career with the CFA. James and his wife, Jodie, whom he married in 2006, live in Lysterfield.

TABUAUN TEKEE (1997)

St Joseph's First Kiribati Scholarship Student (1996-1997)



Terobi, Thea, Tabuanaba, Frank (baby), Beren, Iwa, Keeka, Tearitara, Tabuaun

Tabuaun Tekee completed his VCE certificate over ten years ago at St Joseph's College when the first of the Kiribati Cross-Cultural Programs was beginning. It was a difficult time for Tabuaun, being away from home, family and culture, but he successfully completed his VCE and returned to Kiribati to continue with further studies.

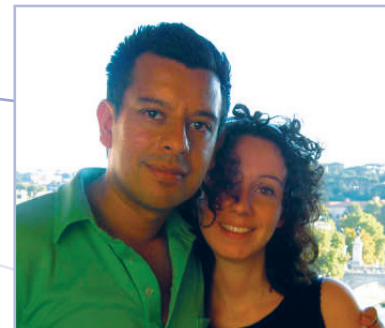
From 1998 Tabuaun started some tertiary study through the University of the South Pacific (USP) campus in Kiribati, and then went onto completing his Secondary Teacher's Certificate at the Kiribati Teachers' College (KTC). He married his wife Terobi in 1998, and started his family. After a year working and teaching on the main atoll of Tarawa in Kiribati, in the year 2000, Tabuaun and his small family left for a tiny atoll in the Phoenix group named Tabuaeran (Panning Island). He spent several years on this isolated atoll teaching at the Junior Secondary School (JSS), with the rare visit of tourist ships visiting.

In 2005, Tabuaun and his growing family moved to the further groups of atolls called the Line Islands, to be placed on Kiritimati (Christmas) Island where he taught Maths and Science for a few years. He was happy living on this island as there are plenty of fish. This island was named by Captain Cook over 100 years earlier as he arrived on Christmas day and also noted the wonderful supply of fish available to his men.

Tabuaun returned to Tarawa in 2007 and is now teaching Maths to JSS students, is the Maths Coordinator at his school, and supports a family of seven children, from the age of 13 years to a few months. He does not earn much money from his teaching, and supplements his salary by selling cold icy-poles to students at break time.

Tabuaun has very fond memories of the friendships that he made and experiences that he had at St Joseph's College, and is thankful for the opportunity to complete his studies in Australia. This has helped him greatly in finding his profession as a teacher, and working with the young people of Kiribati.

Keith Jansz (1989)



Keith and Daniela

Keith completed his secondary education at St Joseph's between 1984 - 1989. The following year he commenced studying accountancy but after six months deferred. During this time he worked in several jobs which enabled him to earn money while he decided his future. With

the money he earned, he was able to travel around Australia with friends as he contemplated his future.

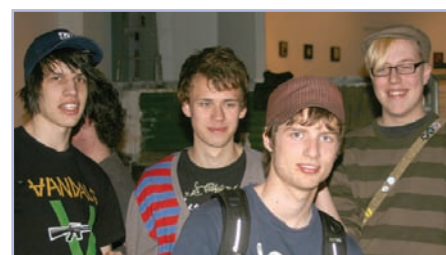
In 1996 he developed an interest in working with people with Intellectual Disabilities and later commenced a BA in Media and Communications at Swinburne University, studying part-time whilst still working full time. In 2004, he met Daniela who was an exchange teacher from Milan, Italy. The following year, he completed his degree, so he and Daniela moved to England and Italy where he continued to work with people with disabilities.

In 2007, he and Daniela were married in Milan in a Catholic wedding and returned to Melbourne at the end of that year. Keith continues to work in the field of Intellectual Disabilities whilst Daniela teaches Italian in a Catholic secondary college. With Buggy, their Jack Russell, they live in Brunswick.

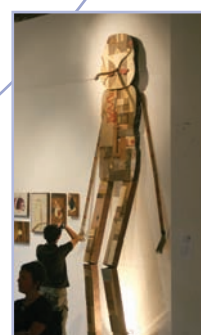
Robert Bowers (2005)



Robert completed his education at St Joseph's College in 2005 and graduated with a Graphics Art degree at RMIT in 2007. In 2008 he held an exhibition of his art work in the Queen Victoria Centre, Melbourne and has been working as an artist, exhibiting his work around the country. Pieces of his work have also been on display at exhibitions in London (May 2008) and also America.



Past students Josh Weatherlake, Tom Muhle, Joel Bowers, Adam Thompson at the exhibition for Robert Bowers



Matthew Blythman (2002)



Matthew graduated from St Joseph's College in 2002 and the following year enrolled in Industrial Design at Swinburne. Matthew Blythman's sleek two-seater 'Velo' roadster design has won a prestigious award in the Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce Target 2020 Car of the Future competition.



The 2008 Swinburne Industrial Design Honours graduate took out the Design Category (tertiary student) award, earning \$3000 for himself and a further \$3000 for Swinburne's Faculty of Design.

"Velo is designed with real drivers in mind," Matthew said, "It's purpose is to reignite the passion of driving, without having to worry about burning limited fossil fuels and damaging our precious earth."

According to his design rationale, the lightweight two seat roadster adapts clever technology and innovative thinking with a touch of simplicity to create the ideal driver's car for the Year 2020.

Matthew believes we are seeing a worldwide change in people's automotive preferences. "An increase in small city cars and a decrease in true performance cars has the potential to make true drivers extinct," he said. "Velo offers a solution to this problem, by offering a small lightweight dual hydrogen/ethanol hybrid vehicle that can still offer the feel of a real sports car."

In Memoriam



Steven McNally (20.6.61 - 28.1.09)

In the early 1990's, Stephen had a serious work accident and his health declined over the next few years. He shared happy memories with class mates at the 1978 Reunion in 2008.

Sadly, Stephen died at home in January 2009. May he rest in peace.

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 hope to have 10, 20, 30, 40 year reunions. That is, the Year 12 Class of 1999, 1989, 1979 and the Year 7 Class of the 1969.

We also want to run a reunion for the 1965 Year 8, 9 classes.

If anyone from the 1999 (Year 12), 1989 (Year 12), 1979 (Year 12), 1969 (Year 7), Year 8, 9 (1965) 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.

REUNIONS WILL HAPPEN ONLY IF YOU WANT THEM TO. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

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

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 or on the College website www.stjosephs.com.au/our-community/past-students.

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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Having spent his honours year resolving real commercial problems at Swinburne's Internal Design Consultancy, the Swinburne Design Centre, Matthew is now off to Germany on a six-month internship at internationally renowned design company Frog.

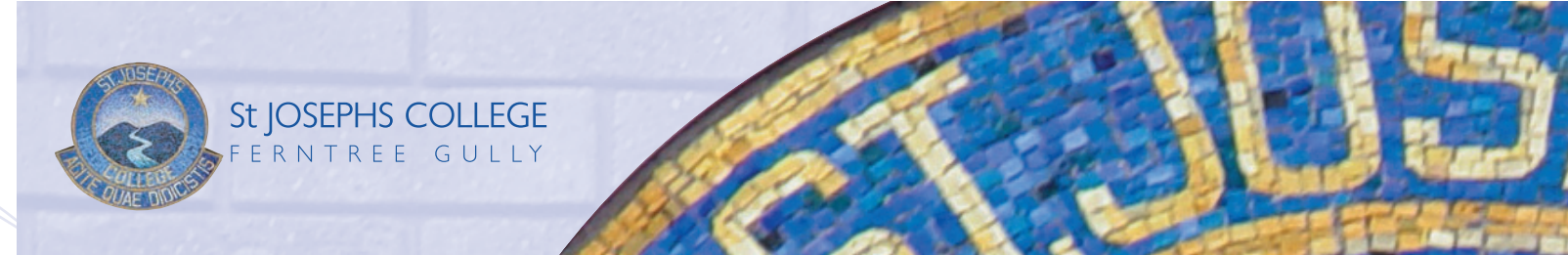
"My studies at Swinburne have allowed me to really discover who I am as a designer, and I now feel confident to step into a full time professional role," he said.

"During the past year I had the privilege to work within a wide range of design sectors, including product development, manufacturing, retail, exhibition, and automotive design. This has given me remarkable insight into the current status of design in Australia."

Jarrold Lawson (2007)



Congratulations to Jarrold who received an award this year as the top first year student to go into civil engineering at Monash University



St Joseph's College Past Students Newsletter

June 2009

Message from the Principal

When Paul Simon sings "I remember the days of the old school yard", it is very easy for those of us who work in schools to consider that what happens there is a great predictor of what will unfold later in life.

I know that is not true. It is more accurate to say that what doesn't happen has more of an influence. If we don't make friends, or if we don't experience success or if we don't learn how to read and write. These are critical to what may happen later.

All the more reason to encourage those still at school to make the most of their opportunities.

However, after we leave the school yard it is up to us.

Just recently Robert Altamore received an OAM for service to people with vision impairment through advocacy roles with a range of organisations. He is a good example of what I am referring to. Blind himself, school was not easy for Robert. He had to spend much longer hours learning the material than the rest of us did. He read his texts, where available, in Braille, listened to tapes and had to learn how to touch type to present his work. And he couldn't check it at the end either: He just had to get it right the first time.

I remember catching up with him at Monash University where he studied Arts/Law and saw again how independent he was. Later after graduation he moved to Canberra where he began work in the Public Service using his Law degree. So, what happened after school is now quite clear.

Back to my earlier point. What didn't happen for Robert at school?

Well, he was never discouraged by his peers, he never baulked at any challenge and what he could do was never overshadowed in the minds of others by what he couldn't do.

I have always been proud to have been his classmate for I knew from close observation what he had to overcome to succeed. No doubt all who read this can recall such characters from their own time.



Vincent J Feeney

The OAM couldn't have gone to a more admirable character.

Congratulations, Robert.

Vin Feeney
PRINCIPAL

News Around the College 150th Anniversary Salesians of Don Bosco 1859 - 2009

Congratulations to the Salesians of Don Bosco as they celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of St Francis de Sales. When Don Bosco gathered his followers on the evening of 18th December 1859, little did he know that his work would spread rapidly across many nations and the seed sown that day would grow into great trees, in spite of persecution, wars, hardship and difficulties. The Salesian ethos of "Reason, Religion and Kindness" is truly alive in Ferntree Gully as we join the Salesian family and celebrate the 150th Anniversary.



New Building Plans

The facilities at St Joseph's College continue to expand, with 2 major developments in the second half of 2009. A new administration wing is to be built at the front of the College and it will have offices for senior administrative staff, a new College Board room and meeting room, plus new parking facilities across the front of the College. The new swimming centre is being built at the rear of the College with a 25m indoor swimming pool, change rooms and a multi purpose space for sporting activities.



Farewell Mark Murphy, and Good Luck as Principal of Marcellin College

After dedicating 10 years to St Joseph's College and four years as Deputy Principal (2005-2009), Mark was appointed as Principal of Marcellin College in Bulleen, late in 2008 but took up the appointment in Term 2, 2009. This well respected teacher, who closely followed Don Bosco in his teachings, will now adopt the Marist ethos. The school community wish him every success in his new appointment.



Feature Article

This section of the newsletter features a profile on a past student who has achieved great distinction in his chosen field in the Australian community.

George Somers (1965- 68)



George addressing a group of health professionals at the Monash Gippsland School Churchill

Dr George Somers is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Monash University, Churchill Campus in Gippsland, and is currently the Coordinator of Clinical Skills at the Churchill Campus.

George attended St Joseph's College from 1965 (Year 8) to 1968- that year he was the first

Head Prefect of the College. He studied Medicine at Melbourne University, graduating B.Med.Sc.(1975) and as a medical doctor M.B. B.S. (1976). George established a medical practice in Emerald where he worked for many years as a medical practitioner and continues to work at his practice on a part-time basis.

Today, George is an acknowledged expert in the field of Rural Medicine. Over the last decade he has gained many qualifications in the area of trauma and Rural Medicine. In 1998, he undertook studies in trauma and became a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress, (Diplomate of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress) and a Fellow, American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. In 1999, he became a Fellow, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. In 2000, he graduated Grad. Dip. Clin. Epid. (Newcastle University). His thesis: *The medical student's intention to practice in rural Australia: A questionnaire to investigate the factors influencing the intention of the Australian medical student to choose a rural career.*

His interest in Rural Medicine culminated in graduating with a PhD (Monash University) in 2005. The title of his thesis: *An approach to the understanding and measurement of medical students' attitudes toward a rural career.* He followed this up with a Grad Cert Health Professional Education (Monash University 2007). His outstanding qualifications in Rural Medicine led to his appointment as Associate Professor at Monash Churchill in training doctors in clinical skills for rural medicine.

After the Tsunami in 2005, George went to Aceh to assist in the recovery, working in medical clinics with the local people. In Indonesia he is currently involved with Monash University in setting up a medical school at a small university outside Jakarta, as well as being one of the chief advisers on developing curriculum in the faculty.

George is also leading a research team at Monash Churchill looking at community resilience and recovery after disasters in local communities. This is of particular interest after the February bushfires and the damage to many local communities. His own campus at Churchill was in the centre of the bushfires in February, and the Campus facilities were used as a staging post for the CFA. Monash University has plans to establish an Institute on Emergency Management for future disasters in the community.

George is leading the research for this work from the medical side. George lives in Officer with his wife, Mary-Anne and their four children, Emily, Chris, Jono and Maddie. He continues to practice medicine one day a week at his own practice in Emerald where he employs 5-6 doctors. He spends the remainder of the week working in clinical medicine at Monash Churchill.



George and family punting the Cam in Cambridge

What our past students are doing

Kevin Niklaus (1978)

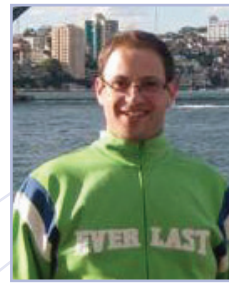
Kevin attended St Joseph's College for the entire six years of secondary school, completing HSC in 1978. He commenced his Undergraduate Degree in Accounting at Swinburne College in 1979, and graduated in 1984. During this time he was employed full time in a variety of mainstream accounting roles by GJ Coles & Co (as it was named back then), in their head office in the city.



Since completing his formal studies, he has worked in a range of accounting, commercial and financial roles in several fields, spanning retail, investment banking, stockbroking, and for the past 20 years, IT. Further studies have included his CPA certification and in the future, he hopes to gain an MBA qualification. He is presently employed by SAP in a national commercial role which enables him to work with customers and sales teams in developing and structuring the financial business cases and investment scenarios, so necessary in modern business decision making.

He married Louise in 1984 and they recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. They have three wonderful teenage sons; Ashley (18) who just completed VCE, Ben (16) and Damien (13). Louise works part time as a midwife, and suffers her household of four males admirably. They live in Wonga Park, on the outskirts of the Yarra Valley, and share the yard with Louise's many pet animals and birds. Leisure time revolves around family activities, including cycling, sailing and camping/touring trips.

Overall, life since leaving St Joseph's has been good for Kevin. The family have experienced many adventures and explored Australia, including living in Sydney for five years. He has been blessed with a good family and a high standard of living, but they have also experienced their share of disappointments and problems. He enjoyed attending the 30th reunion in 2008 as it was his first time back at St Joseph's since 1978, and this brought back many memories. He commented that the school infrastructure has changed and seeing so many of his class mates was terrific, as he had not seen most of them since he left the College. Kevin can be contacted at kevinniklaus@gmail.com



Steven Teofilo (1999)

In 1999, Steven concluded his secondary education at St Joseph's College at the end of Year 12 as he was eager to commence studying Engineering. In 2000, he was accepted into the Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology course at Swinburne TAFE. After completing the Advanced Diploma, he was accepted into Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at Swinburne University. After the first semester, he decided to extend the scope of his education to include a business degree and transferred to Swinburne's double degree course which encompassed both the Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Business, with a major in Management.

In 2006, he was required to undertake a one year industry placement as an Engineer as a part of the requirements of the Engineering degree. He applied to undertake this requirement at Iveco Trucks Australia Limited as an Engineering Cadet as the company presented itself as a key global player in the heavy vehicle. Since he concluded his Cadetship, he has continued his employment at Iveco and currently holds the position of Project Engineer. He is now in the final semester of the double degree course at Swinburne University and has decided to continue his studies, and next year and will be commencing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Monash University.



Peter Cole (2000)

Peter has always been immensely proud of St Joseph's, and most grateful to Mr Vin Feeney and his staff. It was at the College that he developed an interest in education and politics, his love of sport and the spirit of Don Bosco. After graduation, it took some time for him to decide on a career. In Years 11 and 12, the College Principal, Mr Feeney generously backed him in the production of a school movie, and for a time, he considered working in the media. He was drawn back to Education, working at several schools, including St Joseph's, Mt Lilydale Mercy College and Xavier College, as a teaching trainee/sports coach. He is now a sports coach at a top private school in Melbourne's inner-east.

In 2001, he volunteered his time with under-resourced schools in Fiji. Noticing that youngsters were forced to improvise games with bottles and sticks because they did not have any sports gear, he decided to do something about it, a decision that changed his life. Eight years ago, he asked people to donate sports equipment to under-privileged children in Fiji. 'The Spirit of Sharing', as he calls his civilian mission, began with a suitcase of gear and now, with the backing of International Rotary and a team of volunteers, he is taking two containers of sports equipment to Suva and beyond. Peter is a proud Rotarian.



Peter in Fiji supplying sports equipment

Another one of his interests is a desire to serve the local community. After heading up a campaign to re-design a dangerous intersection in his local area, he took the step of standing as a candidate for Knox City Council, and was privileged to be elected in November 2008.

In addition to all this, he is a keen Geelong Football Club supporter, and has served as a club official in local grass-roots football.

Peter is immensely proud of St Joseph's College in Ferntree Gully, and appreciates the support and patience of Principal, Mr Vin Feeney and the staff. St Joseph's is where he received the grounding that set the course of his life. He believes strongly in the school's motto, 'Agite quae didicistis' 'Put into practice those things which you have learned'. Peter can be contacted on Peter.Cole@Knox.vic.gov.au



Hamish Cramer (1999)

After leaving the College in 1999, Hamish was accepted at Monash University. Whilst working at the men's clothing store Roger David, he completed a 4 year degree in Business Commerce specializing in Marketing and Public Relations. After completing his degree he went to work for his cousin's business which sold telecommunication services to corporate companies. His first role was as a marketing assistant and over the next 6 years, Hamish moved from Marketing Manager to Operations Manager and finally to Sales & Marketing Manager where he was in charge of the companies' top 10 clientele which included RACV, RACQ, NRMA, Crazy Johns, Telstra, AWB, Three, and Fone Zone.

Exhausting his ambitions in the mobile phone market, Hamish took a drastic career change and turned to one of his passions as a career - Health and Fitness. After completing a Certificate 3 & 4 in fitness, Hamish became a personal trainer and purchased a Fitness First franchise. In the space of 6 months the business grew to service over 40 clients through personal training, group classes and nutritional advice. The growth has been so substantial that plans to open a studio are under way. Hamish is fluent in a Brazilian martial art called Capoeira and trains with Grupo Muzenza Capoeira School in Richmond. Hamish can be contacted on hamish@alteregofit.com.au



FATHER PIUS (GREG) JONES (Marist Priest)

Father Pius Jones was a student at St Joseph's College in the early seventies. Fellow students at that time would have known him as 'Greg Jones.' His two brothers Mark and Anton also attended St Joseph's. With the sudden death of their mother, their father was left with five young children - three boys and two girls. Their father decided that the boys would board at Salesian College, Sunbury.

Even though he only had three years at St Joseph's, for Greg these were very happy years. He remembers, with affection, the priests, brothers and other teachers. Times were hard and the school was basic, yet what he remembers most was the rapport between teachers and students. That was something special about the College.

He also remembers the hard work of the early staff who were not afraid to get "their hands dirty". One memory stands out, that of Fr O'Sullivan and Fr Murray trying to fix a blocked pipe. Sleeves rolled up, they had their arms covered in muck and grime, and yet were able to laugh about it. One of his favourite teachers was Br Joe Ellul. Some would see him tearing around on the back of a trailer with Br Joe driving, getting jobs done and having lots of fun. Greg thought that Br Joe drove like a maniac, but was one fantastic bloke.

After leaving school Greg studied for the priesthood and was ordained a Marist priest in 1991. After Ordination, he taught at Lismore, and then worked in Sydney. From Sydney he was sent to Wales in the UK to assist with the establishment of a new mission. Returning from Wales he was posted to West Sunshine in Melbourne as Parish Priest and has been there for the last six years.

He learnt a lot from the Salesians and the lay staff who shared in their mission. Some of his classmates became Salesian priests. He believes that he is the person he is today because of their care, commitment, and belief in him that he could be a better person than he was. He will always have fond memories of those few, but formative years at St Joseph's College.



GRIFFIN D'COSTA (1989)

Griffin attended the College from 1984 to 1989. After leaving school he went on to complete his first degree at Monash University and followed this with post graduate studies in toxicology while working in the telecommunications/IT industry. In 2001, Griffin moved to Sydney to take up a position as a toxicologist within the federal government. He returned to Melbourne in 2006 as a principal consultant for a firm of consulting toxicologists. The firm provides independent expert advice to government and the chemical, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries in matters related to toxicology, human health risk assessment, and regulatory affairs. While toxicology is often referred to as the "science of poisons", which grabs the attention and fires the imagination of many, Griffin spends most of his day involved in the more technical aspects of the job such as reviewing results of experiments, commenting on studies, writing advice and preparing submissions to Government.

On reflection, Griffin regards that his journey since leaving the College has been an interesting one, but admits that it is not one that he would have expected while studying at the College. Griffin believes the Christian values taught by the College, and encouraged by his parents, continue to inform his daily activities. Griffin lives in Toorak and enjoys spending time with family (including his brother Garfield (Bosco House Captain; Class of 1987)) and good friends.

He looks forward to catching up with former classmates and teachers at the 20 year reunion to be held this year.

PATRICK EIJSVOGEL (1970)

Patrick Eijsvogel attended St Joseph's College from 1966 to 1970. After leaving the College, he went to RMIT and embarked on a Fellowship Diploma in Electronic Engineering. During this time he found a position with an electronics company in Canterbury where he continued training and schooling.



Patrick with Village Elder in East Timor

With daughter Penelope

This was in the field of electronic industrial control in the days when electrical goods were still made in Australia. He then took up a position at Siemens Industries at Bayswater

In 1975 he met Jacqueline and in 1979 they married and have three girls, Emily (1985), Amanda (1987) and Penelope (1991). In 1983 he began working in his father-in-law's company making tool and plastic injection moulding. In 1994, he lost an eye in a minor explosion. In 1997 he lost his position at the company when it was sold to a large footwear manufacturer who moved the business to China. After losing his job in 1997, the family travelled around Australia.

On returning from their trip, Patrick and Jacqueline set up their own business, called 'Sole Purpose Moulding' on their property near Bell's Beach in a factory overlooking the water. They made shoe soles for Clarks, Rivers, Diana Ferrari and Candy.

In December 1999 Jacqueline and Patrick separated. After the divorce, Patrick lived in a caravan for 2 years and tried to keep the little business afloat in a rented factory. At this time he travelled with a mate to parts of Asia and Africa, trying to cope with the impact the divorce had on his life.

The shoe business eventually disappeared to China and today he designs a range of goods: cricket ball cores for Kookaburra; tamper proof window winders for the Government high rises in Melbourne; wine bottle caps and lots of bit and pieces that all of us must have or life would be unbearable.

Patrick now lives on a small property in Bellbrae, near Torquay where he has his factory and enjoys working from home. Through one of his friends, he became involved in overseas development projects and they go to East Timor regularly to install solar and wind power systems in villages.

Life today revolves around his children and work, as well as maintaining good health. He has not ruled out future romance. He is committed to his overseas projects and above all, to being happy. He believes happiness can be achieved by matching personal resources to opportunities that arise.



James Mears (1995)

James completed Year 12 in 1995 and went on to study Marketing at TAFE in 1996-7. He then enrolled for a Marketing Degree at university for a short time, until he realized university life wasn't for him. He worked in a variety of positions and more recently as a warehouse manager. In 2007, he decided to join the CFA and undertook training for several months, graduating as a CFA Fire Fighter and began working full time at the Boronia Fire Station, which is the only permanently staffed fire station in the Knox region.