



Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College Newsletter

Issue 3 – September 2014

CONTENTS

Page 1:
From the Principal's
desk

Page 2:
Past Student –
Samuel Mehanni

110th Anniversary
Dinner

Page 3:
Past Student –
Phillip Flynn

Page 4:
News from Past
Students and Friends

Page 5:
Donations to the PS and
FOSAC Association

Page 6:
Annual General
Meeting
24th March, 2014

Page 7:
Memorial Mass and
History of the College

From the Editor

From the Principal's desk



Dear Past Students and Friends of
St. Augustine's College,

Early this year, the unusually high temperatures we experienced certainly challenged everyone, students and staff alike. Thank goodness for air conditioning and regular maintenance programs! I have to say that our Foundation students were little heroes in the extreme weather and I am proud of all our students for the way that they

cooperated with the extra measures put in place to ensure a smooth beginning to the school year.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Tom Jackson (class of 2013) in being Dux of our College with an ATAR score of 95.25 and Alex Darling as the runner up with a score of 92.5. Readers will be pleased to note that we had 30 students complete Year 12 in 2013, of which 6 completed VCAL and 24 completed VCE. Five of our students received study scores above 40 with an average study score of 30 across the cohort.

The student leaders for 2014 are:

College Co-captains: Andrew Mangan and Stacey Griffiths

College Co-deputy Captains: Lijarna Bekirofski and Stephanie Minge

Junior School Leaders: Miller Oliver Shorter, Sophie DeGirolamo,
Julian Luvara and Ritma Bhardwaj

We congratulate these students for stepping forward and being elected by their peers. They will be great advocates of the College and I am enjoying working with them in promoting the well being of all the members of our College community.

A number of refurbishment and landscaping works have been carried out since our last newsletter and, amongst other things, I particularly highlight the refurbishments in the Shared Area and the asphaltting of the driveway off McCormick Road. We are very grateful for these improvements.

Finally, I wish to share with you the news that last year Jessie Ryan, currently in Year 12, was the recipient of the *Bishop Joe Grech Youth Scholarship: Leadership & Spirituality*. Jessie elected to use part of the scholarship to fund her participation in the Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne and to donate the remainder of the money to the St. Augustine's College East Timor Projects.

Yours in St. Augustine,
Oronzo Farina
Principal.

Past Student – Samuel Mehanni



Although I arrived at the College in 1997, my story at St. Augustine's started much earlier. My sister Marietta began Grade 6 in 1983 and my brother Antony also came to the school in 1983. It's now 28 years since I was introduced to St. Augustine's College and its people; now I really enjoy being involved with the Past Students and Friends Association and I am very pleased to still have a connection with a school where I valued being a student.

One very important person whom I admired at St. Augustine's College was Mrs. Jen Ryan. She taught me so many things about health, safety, well-being and money management. There have been many other funny and great students and teachers at the College including Mr. Bernie Elliott, Mrs. Gen Brega and Mrs. Maureen Atkins.

Mr. Oronzo Farina, the current Principal, is dedicated to caring for all the students and offering everyone an excellent education.

The school is a warm, welcoming, loving and caring place where everyone is accepted. I learnt a lot and I developed an appreciation of the importance of being myself and being part of a community.

I would really like to thank everyone at St. Augustine's for their care, friendship and hospitality and the chances they gave me and my family to gain an education. My sister Marietta also sends her best wishes to all past students and friends.

God bless everyone.

110th Anniversary Dinner

This dinner will be held on Saturday 4th October at the Bocce Club and we would like to invite all our Past Students and Friends to attend this special event. Our primary focus is to bring together past students and friends of St. Augustine's College to share their stories and to celebrate 110 years of Catholic Education in Kyabram.

The school opened in 1904 with 15 pupils and it has now developed into a flourishing Foundation to Year 12 College with approximately 700 students.

Dinner will be provided by the excellent catering team at the Bocce Club and the band is B4 The Storm; this group includes a member of St. Augustine's staff. B4 The Storm is a live band local to the Kyabram area and they play a mixture of rock, country and blues music. The members are: Bruce Russel (lead guitar and vocals), Tommy Hougherty (vocals and guitar), Brendon Lane (bass) and Robby Lahn (drums).

Please contact your Year Group and encourage them to come to this celebration. We would be very grateful if you could promote awareness of this event through your networks.

Tickets can be purchased at the College; you can buy a single ticket or book a table (10 people).

Contact Julie at jmulcahy@sakyabram.catholic.edu.au and 5851 3000

or Maureen at matkins@sakyabram.catholic.edu.au and 58522103 or 0439 631 329.

Ticket sales are now open and we encourage you to make your booking at the College Office before the end of term on 19th September.

Please refer to the poster on the last page of this newsletter.

School Tour and Mass

Would you like to see the changes at St. Augustine's since you were a student?

There will be a School Tour on Saturday 4th October at 2 p.m. Please meet at the front entrance in Church Street.

On Sunday 5th October, Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine's Church at 10 a.m.



Past Student – Phillip Flynn (1957 – 1962)



In 2013 (Oct 6), I was privileged to be invited to St Augustine's reunion of past students. Thank you so much to Maureen Atkins, Terry Hehir and Linda Stone for welcoming me and sharing their anecdotes.

When I was at Mass on that Sunday, I recalled how Father Meagher asked me one night many years ago, whether I could help him as an altar boy at one of his Benediction services. His regular was sick. He gave me a 'deener' for my time.

My association with St. Augustine's began in Feb 1957 (**Bubs**), when I was 'dinked' on the back of my sister's bike (Pauline - Now Provincial nun of the Daughters of Charity in Australia) to the school. I remember vividly, how I cried all day and just wanted to go home. Mother Augustine, being the lovely person that she was, took me under her wing and soon after, I couldn't wait to get to school each day. She then taught me in 1958 - **Gr 1**. Later in life, I went back to Ky and visited the convent. I was so chuffed, when she answered the door and remembered me. She was very special.

Grade 2 was a different story. Welcome to the real world. Even though I didn't do too much wrong, I feared Mother Leonard. The best I could do was to be trusted to change the ink wells. Mother Fabian was always at the back of my mind, too!

Grade 4 Mary McCormick was a lovely lady; I enjoyed the year. I remember the one time that I got into trouble that year. It was when I pulled the hair of the girl sitting in front of me. She complained to the teacher. I can see the girl's face (and her hair), but can't remember her name.

Grade 5 (1962) My other favourite year at the school. Sister Paulette was a darling. I visited her much later in life and it was so beaut to catch up.

I lived with my family in Allan Street (where the Police Station is now located). My dad, Jack, worked at 'Southern Can'. In 1962, Mum (Marie) and Dad decided to relocate to Melbourne in order to further my education (De La Salle - Malvern).

My year/class at St. Augustine's copped a lot of tragedy in later years. My very dear friends; Michael Bowman, Gerard Williams, Peter Gill, Gary Tonkin and Brian McCormick all departed this life far too early. Even though I left Kyabram so long ago, it still feels like home. Mary Bowman is still a big part of my life. I am so glad that we've stayed in touch and remained good friends. Quite often, we'll get on the phone and have a chat. Her eldest son was my best friend when I lived in Ky.

If this article ever finds a former student of the school, **Keith Warren**, I would love to hear from him. We were good mates. One of my fondest memories was playing alleys (trackers) all over Kyabram with Keith.

I am looking for photos from my old school. Has anyone got any from my era that they'd like to share with me? I remember that they photographed the boys separately from the girls.

Who remembers playing a part in the school play? The Teddy Bears Picnic, maybe Grade 2/3 in 1962/3 Special thanks to Shirley Walsh (I think her married name is Melverton) who sent me a photo of the class of 1962 (Grade 5 - girls).

If anyone would like to contact me, my details are below:

Email - flynn_phil@hotmail.com

Tel - 0422 124 659

PO Box 323

BORONIA VIC 3155

News from Past Students and Friends

Introducing Julie Mulcahy



Julie is the school liaison officer for the Past Students and Friends Association and her work is invaluable; she is a friendly and resourceful contact person for the Association. She is also an Administration Officer at St. Augustine's College, the Personal Assistant to the Deputy Principal and, of course, she undertakes many other responsibilities in her administrative role.

She was born in Melbourne and she went to primary school at St. Paul's Bentleigh, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Bentleigh for Years 7 and 8 and completed her secondary education at Notre Dame College Shepparton. Prior to commencing work at St. Augustine's, she worked in childcare in the Kyabram area and she spent 18 months working as a nanny in England.

Julie said 'she enjoys working with all the lovely people at St. Augustine's, she loves seeing the wonderful productions and performances of the students and she has been delighted to participate in some school camps.'

Margaret and Jack Evans and their family

Thank you to Annette and Gerry Doolan who met the Evans' family and told them about the Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College.

Margaret and Jack both worked at St. Augustine's College and they now live in Canberra. Their six children were born in Kyabram and attended the school. Les is teaching at Girton Grammar Bendigo, Peter is in charge of an IT team at the Australian Taxation Office in Canberra, Tony has his own building business in Melbourne, Christine is an early childhood lecturer at Darwin University and has trained many indigenous women in childcare, Paul is also a lecturer at Darwin University in training plumbing apprentices and Richard has his own consultancy in compliance training and is in Sydney.

Peter, Margaret, Mary and John (deceased) Larkins

The Larkins family attended St. Augustine's College from 1956-58. Their father was the Railway Station Master. Peter is looking for a school photo from 1958. Can anyone help? Please contact the College if you have a copy of this photo. Thank you again to Gerry Doolan for letting this family know about the Past Students and Friends.

Donations to the PS and FOSAC Association

Membership of the Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College Kyabram

Some past students' groups have membership fees, but the Kyabram committee decided that entry to the Association would be offered, at no cost, to anyone who would like to be involved with the Past Students and Friends.

However, as we are aware that every organisation requires some financial resources, the group decided to ask past students and friends for donations to support the activities of the Association.

We have received a few enquiries about an appropriate amount to donate and the following suggestions may be useful to people in making decisions:

- \$10.00 as an annual donation
- \$200.00 as a one-off donation.

However these amounts are only guides; we would be very pleased to receive any amount as we develop this Association and establish a base for future development.

The Committee believes that it is important that this Association is open to any past students and friends and we wish to emphasise that there is no cost to be a member. If you want to be involved with the Association, please forward your contact details to St. Augustine's College.

Membership Form

Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College Association Membership Form
(This form can also be completed on the website and emailed to the College).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Years at St. Augustine's College (if you are a student, parent or staff member)

Final year level (for past students) - Year _____

E.g. Year 10, 1996

N. B. There is no cost for membership.

If you would like to become a member, please return the completed form to the Past Students and Friends Association of St. Augustine's College, PO Box 447, Kyabram, 3620 **or** complete the online form on our website.

Annual General Meeting – 24th March, 2014

Co-ordinator's Report

The first meeting for the Association was held on 14th May 2013 and the group decided that this Association would be for anyone who wanted to be connected to St. Augustine's College; it is a Past Students and Friends Association. Friends could be parents, staff members, grandparents and any people in the Parish and the community who are interested in the development of the College.

Julie Mulcahy has established a data base; if you want to be included, please contact the school.

There is a Catholic Development Network which is an Association of Catholic Schools that focuses on past students' groups, publicity, marketing and development. This group is very valuable as it provides information and networking and we have researched the activities of Alumni Associations in other schools.

Two Reunions were held

- Sunday 6th October – Mass, School Tour and Lunch
- Tuesday 22nd October – Morning Tea and a School Tour

Support is provided for reunions initiated by past students

- The 30th Anniversary for Year 10 of 1983 on 3rd and 4th August was organised by Helen Mullins. Approximately 20 people attended the dinner on 3rd August and about 12 people joined the school tour on Sunday morning after Mass. The group was very interested in the Principal's information; they were extremely impressed with the appearance of the school and they tried to remember the location of some of their classrooms. The reunion concluded with lunch at Hurley's Hotel on Sunday.

A Memorial Mass was held on 17th November and approximately 30 past students were recorded in the memorial book. The group joined the visitors who were attending the opening of new school buildings for morning tea and this was a very successful arrangement.

2014.

- Facebook: Thank you to Julie Mulcahy and Brayden Stone who have organised a Facebook page for the Past Students and Friends' Association.



Thank you to the team who have been guiding the progress of this Association:

Kerrie Bozzella, Joan, Caitlin and Andrew Dickman, Helen Heard, Jenny Leahy, John Lilford, Samuel Mehanni, Brian and Anne O'Meara, Linda Stone, Lisa Warren and Mary Zobec.



Memorial Mass

Sunday 16th November in St. Augustine's Church at 10 a.m.

We all want to remember people we have loved and lost and the Memorial Mass is a time to think about our deceased past students and friends.

In the photo, you will notice the Memorial Booklet where we compiled the names of past students and friends who were included in our prayers last year.

If you would like a member of your family or a friend to be remembered in this way, please forward their details to the College and their names will be added to the Memorial Booklet.



History of the College

The Association is interested in supporting the development of the College Archives and treasuring the stories of past students, staff, family and friends. We would like to encourage all our past students and friends to search for your school records and to consider if you have photos and other memorabilia that you could provide to the College.

The 110th Anniversary Dinner will provide an excellent opportunity to bring your old photos to share with past students and friends.

From the Editor

We would like to hear from any Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College who have any news about yourself or another member of the community. For our last edition of the newsletter we were given news about a wedding from one past student and a picture of a new baby from another family. Many of our past students and friends have indicated how interested they are to hear news about classmates. We would like to encourage you to let us know what is happening in your lives.



Were you recently married?

Is there a new baby in your family?

Would you like to write about your time at St. Augustine's like Phillip Flynn and Samuel Mehanni?

Can you help Phillip Flynn who is searching for Keith Warren?

Can you help Peter Larkins who would like a photo from 1958?

Would you like to remember someone who has died in our newsletter?

Please send your stories and ideas to Maureen Atkins at matkins@sakyabram.catholic.edu.au or phone the College on 5851 3000.

110th Anniversary Dinner



**THE PAST STUDENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION OF ST.
AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
CELEBRATION OF THE COLLEGE'S 110TH ANNIVERSARY**

**LOCATION: KYABRAM BOCCE CLUB
DATE: SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2014
DRESS: SEMI-FORMAL
LIVE BAND: B4 THE STORM**

**TIME: 6:00PM
COST: \$50.00
DRINKS AT BAR PRICES**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE OFFICE PH: 58513000
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
MAUREEN ATKINS PH: 0439 631 329 OR 58 522 103 MARY ZOBEC PH: 58 546 332**