



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

Issue 5 – June 2015

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From the Editor

## From the Principal's desk



On accepting the invitation to write my first piece for the Past Students and Friends Newsletter I thought it appropriate to share some of my hopes, dream and commitments in coming to the position of Principal at St. Augustine's College. In these first six months I have taken many opportunities to share these thoughts as I begin to engage with our community.

Firstly I believe we must continue to be a College that embraces its Catholic identity and witnesses this daily in words, symbols and actions. Ritual, prayer and worship in our College will be outward signs of our faith tradition. My question to all within the community will be 'where have others found God because of you'?

Our connectedness to parish is an integral part of the expression of our Catholic identity and this will be intentional and explicit. I hope my leadership will invite students, staff and families to enter more deeply into the mystery of our faith to continue to discover the treasure that it holds for each of us.

St. Augustine's has always been a student centred school. Student success is based on the belief that our students are competent and capable learners. If we believe that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, that we are all in the process of growing into the best version of ourselves, that we all have gifts and talents to bring to the service of our community and that we are all able to learn then we are called to engage with students with dignity and respect. In light of our vision and graduate outcomes we need to ensure we provide students with challenging learning experiences that are authentic, relevant and worthy of student endeavour.

My hope is for us to build a community of colleagues who embrace learning and a sense of co responsibility for the flourishing of all, both students and staff. This will be built on the strong sense of collegiality that already exists amongst the staff community. More often than not we will have all we need to be the best we can be, if we make the room big enough, invite the right people to the table and listen with open hearts and minds. This culture is built on trust, respect, loyalty, kindness, forgiveness and open and honest dialogue. Clarity, coherence and communication will be keys to building this culture. I believe this is a culture of abundance.

Our College has a strong legacy of educating in partnership with parents and the wider community. Respectful engagement of parents, meaningful opportunities for dialogue and acknowledgement of their role as educators of their sons or daughters are not optional but integral to the success of our students. Connection to our community situates St Augustine's as a vital contributor to the ongoing development of our town and outlying region. By ensuring we educate students who can in turn give back to the community creates hope for the ongoing sustainability of rural towns like ours.

My final wish is that we will be outward facing, imaginative, threshold adventurers. The children born this year and indeed some of our Foundation students will live to see the 22nd century. We know we live in times of exponential change. We cannot be left behind for the sake of our students however we must also hold on to all that is good and true as together we navigate change, rethink practice and amplify the positives. To be outward facing, imaginative, threshold adventurers means we will need to take risks and we will make mistakes. If we are not failing sometimes then perhaps we are not really extending ourselves and embracing all that it means to be a life long learner. We will only take risks as a community if we are learning and working in a climate of trust. What I have learned already in my short time, is the special place that this College holds in the lives of many generations of students and families. It is spoken fondly of as 'our College' by all who have had their story connected with this place. My Principalship will be one of stewardship - stewardship of the story, values, shared charisms and faith tradition. However it will not be a static stewardship but one that enables our College to grow into the best possible learning community it can be to continue to educate the current and future generations of students whose lives will be shaped by their time at St Augustine's College.

## *Past Student – Linda Stone (Fitzsimmons)*



I began school in 1958, the eldest of seven children who, like me, were all educated at St. Augustine's school. I can honestly say that I loved school and have always been grateful that I belonged to a community that cared for all students. Discipline was, by today's standards, quite harsh, and I was placed several times under the clock, waiting for Mother Fabian (the Principal) to arrive and give me the strap. Talking in class was, very often, the downfall for me.

In secondary school, we were all involved in a group called the Young Christian Students. We travelled to many schools in Victoria for meetings and held discussion days which were a big thing in those days.

Sport was also important at school; athletics, netball, football and tennis were the sports that we played with pride, especially when we were representing our school. The girls were lined up in school corridors before these days and the teachers measured the length of our sports uniforms while we were kneeling. The length had to be no shorter than three inches above the knee. Athletic sports days on the school oval were a highlight in the school year with our families coming to watch and barrack. The school had three teams, being red, blue and gold.

During my secondary years, I was also one of the organists at St. Augustine's Church and I played for school and Sunday masses and the occasional weddings.

On leaving school, I started work at the National Bank and remained there for three years until I married in 1973. My husband Trevor and I had six children and I would always say that I was blessed to be able to stay home with the children until they all went to school – St. Augustine's of course.

We are very proud of our children and their achievements; this we feel is due to the great education they received from many wonderful teachers. My role as a parent was very busy with serving on the Mother's Club, fete committees and helping in various positions involving sporting groups. I look back on a wonderful time seeing students grow into adults and, in the process, making many friends.

On returning to the workforce, I worked in the banking and food industry up until my retirement in 2012. Since retiring, I now understand it when retirees say that 'they don't know how they found time to work.' We are lucky to have seven grandchildren, one of whom is now a pupil at St. Augustine's.

Having co-organised a school reunion in 2012 with the help of Terry Hehir and Lou Ciavarella, it was an amazing experience to reconnect with people who went to school with you fifty-four years ago. There were stories shared and much laughter, but also some sadness at how many who were no longer with us or were experiencing bad health.

When I was asked to write this article, I felt overwhelmed at the task. I hope people reading this will give some thought to their experiences at St. Augustine's and that they are as proud as I am to have been part of this great school.

I wish the Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College all the best for the future and hope that they receive the support that they need to make it a success.

## Kevin Pattison



At the end of 1979, after a much loved stay of eight years, five as Principal, I left St. Augustine's College to take up an initial five year appointment as Deputy Principal of John Paul College in Frankston. I was to be responsible for the teaching and learning program. John Paul College is a large coeducational regional college at the edge of the Mornington Peninsula. It is close to family. I was to stay there for the remainder of my teaching career. I retired in 2010. It was a very short retirement as I was back in the College in a chaplaincy type role in 2011. I finally 'retired' at the end of 2013.

My two older children, Ruth and James had completed all or most of their early school years at St. Augustine's Primary School, when Mrs. Ratcliffe was Principal. They still treasure their memories of those years. The four of them, including David and Bethany (both born in Kyabram), were to attend John Paul College. Ruth is now the mother of four children, and an Occupational Therapist, whilst James is an aerospace engineer, Lieutenant Commander, Royal Australian Navy. He has seen active service from the Middle East, Pacific, to the UN peace keeping forces in South Sudan. Fay, my wife, is still working as a teacher librarian.

About eight years ago I started reflecting on my plan for 'retirement'. Fifty years ago the Second Vatican Council restored the permanent diaconate as part of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (All priests are first ordained deacons, permanent deacons remain as deacons.) The permanent diaconate was not restored because of a shortage of priests. It was restored as part of the Church's post Second Vatican Council's journey to reform herself to be a more effective witness of Christ to the world. Across the universal church there are now 45,000 deacons. In Australia there are about 135 permanent deacons in active ministry. In Victoria there are now 14 in the Archdiocese and 3 or 4 in the Sale diocese. The family belongs to St. John the Evangelist's parish in Frankston East. It was at Mass I started asking myself the question, "As I consider retirement, how can I serve the faith community?" It was answered when Archbishop Hart in April 2007 announced the restoration of the Permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. I joined that first intake of inquirers and candidates for the permanent diaconate in 2008. The program was systematic and vigorous. There was not only a four year weekend program but also the academic requirement that we had at least a Bachelor degree of Theology from Catholic Theological College. I was to complete my Master's degree in Theological Studies as part of the study program (whilst working fulltime). All seven of us in training happened to be married men. The active welcome and concern for the wellbeing of our wives was a cause of joy. Archbishop Hart was forthright in his position that there could be no conflict between the sacrament of Marriage and the sacrament of Holy Orders. Without the support of our wives and families we could not have proceeded to ordination in 2012. So what does a deacon do! A deacon is ordained to assist the bishop and work with his priests.

The deacon's ministry has a triple role:

- Minister of the Word - proclaiming, preaching and teaching;
- Liturgical and sacramental, assisting at the altar in liturgies especially baptisms, weddings and funerals; and
- Pastoral – in the care of the poor and needy, in activating the social teaching of the Church and in administration

Service is key to the understanding the deacon's role. In many of the early Patristic Fathers writings deacons represented the ministry of Jesus Christ. We are challenged to discover this sense of diaconal service as Christ's own presence. The deacon's ministry has to be Christ's ministry. The deacon has been referred to as a minister of the Sacrament of the Present Moment. He is the envoy of the bishop in that Present Moment. His presence is a sign of the willingness of the Bishop to respond to the needs of the world. It is recognition that the grace of the present moment is found daily in all of creation. I was happily surprised to be attached to my home parish. It was unexpected. In November 2012 when I spoke to the congregation I spoke of my presence at the altar and continued presence amongst the congregation. I told them that as a family man there would be times I would be sitting in the congregation with my family. It was a challenge for the congregation. They were presented with a person, who had taught their children or grandchildren, whose wife and children they knew and who was now at the altar and giving homilies! I have always been thankful for those eight years in Kyabram. It was a time for the family to bond together. My older children have made it clear to me over the years that we should never have gone to Kyabram if we were going to leave! They loved both the school but more importantly the community. From the distance, I have watched and rejoiced at the growth and development of St. Augustine's College. As you can see my 'retirement' plan was really a new beginning. I do not recommend the diaconate for any person wanting a quiet, restful retirement. There is an impact on family and their support is needed. There is a joy, a special peacefulness, in assisting a person in a time of need. I know of no greater joy that when at a baptism, (of which we have over 80 a year) you ask the happy glowing parents, "What do you wish for your child?" Their clear response is, "The faith." – KJP

## ***Past Students and Friends Association – AGM report***

### **Co-ordinator's Report – March 2015**

St. Augustine's College is a flourishing school that has been providing educational opportunities for over 110 years. It is a wonderful experience for me to support the development of the Past Students and Friends Association, another initiative in the history of the College.

We would like to emphasise that this is an Association for Past Students and Friends; it is open to anyone who is interested in the life of the College. Friends could be parents, staff members, grandparents, uncles and aunts and any people in the Parish and community.

**The highlight of the past year for the Association was the dinner that we hosted to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Augustine's College.** Led by our excellent MC, past student John Lilford, many people were encouraged to reminisce and the crowd enjoyed remembering times past, laughing at the entertaining stories and commemorating this long history of Catholic Education in Kyabram. The extraordinary contribution of our members ensured the success of this event.

**A Memorial Mass** was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November and the names of deceased past students were included in the Book of Remembrance. Family and friends are asked to contact the Association if they would like past students and friends remembered at this event in the future.

**Archival Report:** The major focus of the Association in 2015 will be implementing a management system for historical records and archival material.

**Parish History:** The history of St. Augustine's College is closely interwoven with the parish story. Mary McCormick (a past student and staff member) is leading a parish group that is planning to write a parish history to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. This group meets regularly and they have contacted the Diocesan Archivist for advice and direction.

**Two newsletters** were published in 2014 and they were sent to everyone on the data base – either by post or email.

**An Information Leaflet** has been prepared and it is available on the St. Augustine's College website.

**Membership and Donations:** The Association decided that there would not be a membership fee to ensure that there would be no financial barriers for those who desired to join. A very limited amount of money has been donated and the Committee is continually focusing on how to implement this strategy more effectively.

**Reunions:** We encourage any groups who are planning a reunion to contact the College and discuss how the Association can help you organise your event.

**St. Augustine's Junior Football Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015:** We offer our congratulations to the Club for its service to the school community and its enthusiasm for promoting football and supporting young people for fifty years.

**Thank you** to the dedicated and enthusiastic team who bring their time and talents to this Association.

We acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of 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.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the significant contribution of our Past Principal, Oronzo Farina, for his foresight in initiating the Past Students' Association. He championed its beginnings with boundless enthusiasm and he was fervently dedicated to its development.

The Association now warmly welcomes our new Principal, Luci Quinn, and we eagerly anticipate working with her to explore how the Past Students and Friends can strive to achieve its goals and set new directions for the future.

## *Past Student – Angela Hehir*



Angela Hehir graduated in December 2014 with a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery from Monash University. More recently, Angela graduated with a Diploma of Liberal Arts in behavioural studies.

Angela has a long history of education at St. Augustine’s College, having commenced as a prep in 1997, through to being a member of the senior grade of the College in 2007 as a Year 10 student when she was a School Captain. This was the final year before years 11 and 12 were reintroduced to the school. Coincidentally, the previous generation of the Hehir family finished their education at St. Augustine’s when the school reverted back to a Year 10 school in the early years of the 1970’s.

Although Angela is now employed in the Monash Health system as a doctor based at hospitals in the South East of Melbourne, she is still a regular visitor to the Kyabram community which she embraced during her upbringing. Angela says her enthusiastic participation in the full range of activities at St. Augustine’s, especially school theatre productions, music, debates and public speaking, sport and the Duke of Edinburgh Award provided a connection to the broader community which she still holds dearly. The broken nose from an accidental clash of heads during a mixed sporting activity in the school yard is now remembered almost as a badge of honour.

The St. Augustine’s Outreach trip to Northern Australia, the trip to Italy together with the ‘schoolies’ experience to engage with rubbish dump communities in the Philippines (organised by the Catholic Education Office in Sandhurst Diocese) have all had a powerful influence in forming her social conscience according to Angela. She sees her role in medicine as a means to fulfil her passion to help humanity.

Angela’s parents are local parishioners Terry and Pauline Hehir. Her sister Naomi and brother Brendan also attended St. Augustine’s before continuing on to complete tertiary studies.

Angela is a caring young woman, proud of her Catholic heritage, who identifies St. Augustine’s as ‘her’ school.

## *Membership of the Association*

We encourage all the past students and friends of St. Augustine’s College to become members of the Association. Please forward your contact details to Julie Mulcahy [juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au). Once your name is entered on the data base, newsletters will be forwarded to you.

### **Membership Details**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final year level at the College** Year \_\_\_\_\_

e.g. Year 10, 1996

We would really appreciate hearing from more past students and friends; please forward your photos and stories to Maureen Atkins [maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au)

## ***Criteria and Process For Conferring Awards For Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College***

The Past Students and Friends Committee passed the process for conferring awards at the Annual General Meeting. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge the achievements of past students and friends of the College. Nominations must be received by the last Friday in November (27<sup>th</sup> November in 2015) and the awards will be presented at the AGM the following year. The selection criteria for the awards are presented below:

### **PAST STUDENTS AND FRIENDS AWARDS**

#### ➤ **Past Students and Friends Service Award**

**Selection criteria:** Open to Past Students and Friends who have consistently demonstrated:

- Outstanding volunteer service to St. Augustine's College, enhancing the affiliations with its past students and the broader community
- Significant contribution to the wellbeing of others through community and humanitarian service.

#### ➤ **Young Past Students and Friends Award**

**Selection criteria:** Open to Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's College aged 35 or under at the time of close of nominations, who display:

- Significant achievements in their field of endeavour; and
- Exceptional human values, which are an inspiration to others.

#### ➤ **Achievement Award**

**Selection criteria:** Open to all Past Students and Friends who, over the course of a lifetime, have built an impeccable reputation based on:

- Exceptional contribution to their field of endeavour and the community; and
- Integrity and an impressive ability to inspire others to strive for excellence.

#### ➤ **Sporting Award Past Students and Friends**

**Selection criteria:** Open to all Past Students and Friends who have consistently provided an:

- Exceptional contribution to their sport e.g. Playing at State level, Best and Fairest, Outstanding Committee member and
- An ability to demonstrate the principles of fairness, justice and inclusion in their sporting achievements.

### **The Awards are determined by the following sub-committee**

- Three members of the Past Students and Friends
- The School Liaison Officer for the Past Students and Friends
- The Principal or a Delegate from the College
- The Co-ordinator of the Past Students and Friends

### **The Nomination Process**

**The details required are as follows:**

- The nominee's personal and professional details;
- The nominator's personal and professional details;
- The nominator's reasons for nominating, consisting of a brief statement against each of the selection criteria (no more than 150 words per criteria)

## Memorial Mass and Memorial Garden

November is the month when we traditionally remember deceased past students and friends of St. Augustine's College. Their names will be inscribed in the Memorial Book and this will be placed in the church during the Memorial Mass which will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10 a.m. in St. Augustine's Church, Kyabram.

If you would like a past student or friend of St. Augustine's College to be included in this book, please forward the name, date of birth and death to the College.

The College established a memorial garden dedicated to deceased past students in 1994; this is situated in Church Street at the front of the school and you can remember these students as you walk in this space. Please contact the College if you would like one of these students included in the book displayed at the Memorial Mass on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### Inscription on the Garden Memorial Stone at St. Augustine's College

We believe young people's lives should be filled with hopes and dreams; we mourn the death of past students from St. Augustine's who were called to God before their dreams were realised.

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord,

Point out the right road for me to walk,

Come to the garden, the secret place we share

My essence is in the garden, come to me in prayer."

We are always close to those we love: we invite you to talk in the garden and remember them.

Come into our garden and reflect with love on the lives and stories of students we remember .....it symbolises their entry into our world; the story of their brief lives and our hope for their eternal lives.

This garden was established in November 1994..... RIP



### Vale

This term is used in many Alumni newsletters to express farewell to someone who has died. Our Association would like to acknowledge the death of past students and friends at the time of their death, as well as remembering them at the annual Memorial Mass.

Please contact the College if you would like a past student or friend commemorated in this manner.

## Weddings



Angela Campanelli and Kale Walker celebrated their wedding on Saturday the 14th of February at the Melbourne zoo. It was a beautiful day and much enjoyed by all – a perfect day for a perfect couple.

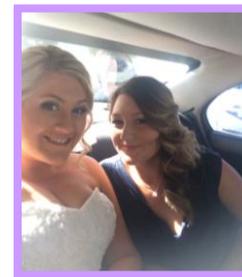
Angela is a past student from the Year 12 class in 2009.

Nikita Saunders is pictured with Lucinda Palma; they are both past students from the Year 12 class in 2009.

We are grateful to Lucinda for providing all the wedding photos.



Nikita Saunders and Nathan Ryan tied the knot on Saturday the 2nd of May at Emerald Bank woolshed in Kialla. The day was perfect with lots of laughs and tears of joy filling the room for the beautiful newlyweds.



## *St. Augustine's College Archives*



### Miss B Ryan and students

This photo was taken before the arrival of the Brigidines to the school in 1919.

If you know the names of any students, we would love to hear from you.

Historical records, photos and some other items are stored in the former Brigidine Convent, now known as the Our Lady of Peace Parish Centre.

### The Convent

The members of the Past Students and Friends want to ensure that we can remember our past and they are enthusiastic about caring for the historical records. As we sort through the material, our volunteers have enjoyed reminiscing about the past, recalling their friends and teachers and recollecting stories. Could we please encourage you to search and to let us know if you can add to these treasures? We are particularly looking for any photos, documents, uniforms and other items especially before the 1970s.

Photos and documents can be copied and returned.

Please contact Maureen Atkins

[maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au) or

Julie Mulcahy [juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au) if you can help.



## *From the Editor*

St. Augustine's College has a new Principal, Luci Quinn, who has shared her vision for our school in this newsletter; she was the guest speaker for the AGM and she has indicated her enthusiasm for our developing Association. We welcome her to our community. We are also delighted to publish more stories and photos from our past students and friends and we encourage everyone to let us know what is happening in your lives – we want to keep in touch and hear what is happening and to read your memories about St. Augustine's College .

This year, we will again commemorate deceased past students and friends in November and, under the heading Vale, you will read about our desire to remember past students and friends in the newsletters.

The Association has decided to present Past Students and Friends Awards and we have presented the selection criteria in this edition. The nominations are due on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Please contact Julie Mulcahy [juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:juliemulcahy@sakyabram.vic.edu.au) and Maureen Atkins [maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au](mailto:maureenatkins@sakyabram.vic.edu.au) if you have any questions about our Association or phone the College on 5851 3000.