

## Various

**Graham Quirk** – Lord Mayor of Brisbane

**Dr Peter Steer** – CEO of the new Brisbane Children's Hospital being constructed at South Brisbane

**Adrian Di Marco** – Founder of "TechnologyOne" Company

**Fr Ken Howell** – Dean of the Cathedral of St Stephen, Administrator St Mary's Parish South Brisbane

**Devett O'Brien** – studying for a double degree in economics and law, will take up his newly appointed position of secretary general of the International Young Christian Students movement in October 2011, and will be based in Paris for the next four years.

**Leonard Yow** – OAM – 2009 Order of Australia winner. This Award was for service to the Chinese community through a range of roles with cultural, historical, social welfare and religious organisations. 2008 Queensland Premier's Award. This Award was for outstanding volunteering efforts within the Community.

**Ken Meredith** – First ever Australian to achieve Level 10 in Gymnastics - represented Australia in the Seoul Olympics

**Rodney Eyles** – Former World No 1 in Squash

**Chris Robertson** – Former World No 2 in Squash

**Peter McWhirter** – the last St Jimmies boy to play Rugby League for Qld

**Kelly Newbery** – did a Bachelor of Business Majoring in PR/Creative Industries (QUT) and was accepted into the Queensland Department of Main Roads and Transport 2011 Graduate Program

**Nicholas Whinett** – graduated last year from UQ with a Bachelor of Business majoring in Real Estate and has won state-wide junior awards with the commercial real estate company that we works for

**Simone Shepherd** – now working in a Senior AO6 role with the Qld Government

**Linda Van** – will be graduating with a Pharmacy degree at the end of this year and has worked extensively in Pharmacies across Brisbane

## Damian Sharry (1979 – 1986)

In brief, I was the youngest of three brothers who came to Jimmies - Patrick, graduated in 1976, Martin 1981 and myself in 1986. Our mother was the tuckshop convenor from 1978 until she passed away in mid 1982. Patrick now lives in Sydney, running his own Economic Consulting Business, Martin, who was Dux of the school in 1981, went on to

# Where are they now?

obtain a PHD in Computer Science, and works in IT for the Department of Transport. Since I graduated in 1986, I have worked in the insurance industry, and now work as a Risk Consultant with Allianz. I also am heavily involved in the cricket community, and am currently President of Warehouse Cricket Association, which has over 300 teams playing under it's banner.

I am very proud to be a Jimmies boy, and have established a great network of friends through this time. Our class of '86 was very small (43 graduates) and are still very tight, and catch up every few months with up to 15 attending our get togethers.

The best part about Jimmies was that everyone knew everyone. That still carries on, and you can see someone from your era in the street and all it takes is a nod or a hello. The school has a great heritage and history and this should be celebrated, in a similar way to other larger schools.

Our 25 year reunion is on Saturday October 8, with a venue to be confirmed. My contact is damiansharry@hotmail.com or 0423 143 743. We would be looking for anyone who was at St James between 1979 (Grade 5) to 1986 (Grade 12). All are welcome!

## Mearon O'Brien (2001 – 2005)

I graduated from St James College in 2005. After graduating I travelled to South Africa for a month with the Christian Brothers as part of the South Africa/Australia Alive program, although I had been passionate about social justice and actively involved prior to this experience the people and programs that I came into contact with in South Africa really inspired me to work in an area where I could support people and work for change to some of the systems that allow injustice.

Initially after completing high school I enrolled in a Bachelor of Social Science at the University of Queensland. Whilst studying I also worked for a young worker's non-government organisation that promoted the rights and responsibilities of young workers (especially in the casual workforce) and encouraged young people to act for change. In 2007 I moved to Melbourne to work full time for this organisation and I worked closely with other NGO's and trade unions with campaigns around issues leading up to the 2007 Federal Election. In 2008 I moved back to Brisbane and commenced full time work for an NGO called the Foundation for Development Cooperation which is a Brisbane based not for profit development consultancy that specialises in microfinance in

developing countries. I returned to university in 2009 and am currently completing a Bachelor of Health Science Majoring Nutrition at QUT. I have worked for the past two years with leading Brisbane based mining and engineering recruitment company SmartWorker and since 2008 as a casual Membership Organiser for the Independent Education Union - Queensland and NT branch.

I plan to sit the GAMSAT entrance exam for Medicine next year and complete a post graduate medicine degree after I finish my undergrad next year. My goal is to become a gynaecologist and work with women in areas where there is a lack of access to health care and to be involved in the area of sexual health and health education.

Since finishing school I have travelled to South Africa, South East Asia and Europe and I been heavily involved with a range of organisations and campaigns in a voluntary capacity. Currently, I am on the Brisbane Subcommittee of Young UN Women Australia.

## Martin Edge (2002 – 2003)

I attended St James for Years 11 and 12 studying hands-on subjects but never did art at school. I enthusiastically embraced the outdoor education program and enjoyed rock climbing, abseiling, white water kayaking, climbing Mt Barney, camping as well as doing my Bronze Medallion and Senior First Aid. I was very honoured to be awarded the Br Finbar Mulry Award at the 2003 Speech Night.

Since leaving St James I have become an artist. I attended Art and Illustration at Tafe. My style is Naïve and I enjoy using bright, vibrant colours.

In 2009 I was a finalist in the Blake Prize. I have had five Solo Shows and Exhibits in galleries in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania.

In 2010 I was honoured by Autism Queensland with the Creative Futures Award presented by the Governor of Queensland.

I have been privileged to have met Ken Done and humbled that he has some of my works in his private collection. In May 2011 Ken Done was the Guest Speaker at the opening of my Solo Show in Sydney.

My most recent Exhibition titled "A Different Way of Seeing" was in August 2011 at the Pine Rivers Art Gallery.

My attitude to life is that "there is no harm in trying and no harm in asking". If you believe in yourself, go ahead and try, don't take any notice of the knockers – just prove them wrong.

## Reunions

### 1979-2009 Jimmies Reunion

At 47 or 48 years of age the members of the Senior Class of 1979 have all reached full and magnificent stallionhood so what better place to hold their 30 year reunion than the Doomben races on Saturday, September 26th.

There were 40 Seniors in 1979 and half of these gathered together to reminisce about their school days and to enjoy each other's company once again.

Lawyers, engineers, accountants, company directors and managers, teachers, computer programmers, technicians, tradesmen and administrative workers – the members of the 1979 class have taken many pathways since they left school. What they have in common are the benefit of a good education and many fond memories of their years at Jimmies.

The class of '79 would like to thank Principals, Br Langan and Br Steele, all of the teachers and, of course, their parents, who guided them through Years 5 to 12 years at St James.

*Faithful Forever, Peter Egan*

### Jim Gallagher

Past student Jim Gallagher (1946-48), a Rotarian living in Emerald, was keen to reconnect with St James and during a visit to Brisbane earlier this year called in to the College with his wife Louise. Jim enjoyed reminiscing over his time at Jimmies. Jim also had the opportunity to catch up with College Captain K'Chin, who was brought to Australia from Vietnam through ROMAC and is involved in many Rotary events which have included Jim's Club in Emerald.



K'Chin, Jim Gallagher, Gerry Crooks.

## 2010 Past Students Gathering

The inaugural Past Students Gathering was exceptionally well attended last year and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This event not only saw past students reconnecting with each other but also with past and current staff of the College. Some year groups took advantage of this event by going out for dinner afterwards, with a wonderful variety of restaurants available within close proximity to the College.



(From left): Steve McCormack, Mike Comerford, Tony Torrisi, Brendan Fahey, Michael Zanco, Steve Dowling, Jeff Attewell, Andrew Dunning, John Harnischfeger, Peter Egan, John Consiglio, Maurizio Paolucci, Tony Lewis, Joe Boscaino, Robert Brumm and Mark Jackson-Knaggs.

## Notices

### Engagements

Jessica Duncan (2009)

### Deaths

Mr Kevin Elford, a former teacher and Deputy Principal at St James from 1959 to 1980 passed away on Thursday 25 August, 2011. There is a wonderful tribute to his contribution to St James on p.63 of St James – A History of a City School by Br Brian Steele. However, one quote below from his farewell speech when he was leaving the College resonates so well with St James today:

*"It wasn't the building; it wasn't the Brothers who came and went on transfer; it wasn't the lay staff; it wasn't the location – noisy, cramped and polluted. It was the kids – they were friendly; they were genuine; they were working class – without affectations and notions of grandeur. And more than that, they had given me the most precious gift of gifts – the gift of friendship."*

May he rest in peace.

### Senior Class of 1986

The 25 Year Reunion of the St James Senior Class of 1986 will be held on Saturday October 8, with a venue to be confirmed. All students who were at St James between 1979 (Grade 5) to 1986 (Grade 12) are most welcome to attend. Please contact Damian Sharry at damiansharry@hotmail.com or on 0423 143 743 to register your interest.

### Senior Class of 1981

The 30 Year Reunion of the St James Senior Class of 1981 will be celebrated at the Past Students Gathering to be held on Friday October 7 in the St James school hall from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. All students who were at St James between 1974 (Grade 5) to 1981 (Grade 12) are most welcome to attend. Please contact Tony Iovenitti at anpiovenitti@bipond.com.au to register your interest.

## Stay Connected

**Past Students, please send your details to:**  
Naomi Ritchie, Principal's Assistant  
St James College, 201 Boundary Street, Brisbane QLD 4000  
Fax: (07) 3839 4977  
Email: Naomi.Ritchie@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

- Title & Surname
- Given Names
- New Address
- Email
- Occupation/Skills/Interests
- Have you been doing anything we should know about?
- Please advise if you would prefer not to receive information from the Past Students' Association.
- Surname at School
- Telephone
- Previous Address
- Last year at St James & Year Level



# Jimmies Spirit

Past Students' Newsletter  
Volume 1 September 2011

## From the Principal

Welcome to the first St James College Past Students' Newsletter – 'Jimmies Spirit'.

It is hoped to produce two similar newsletters per year – one in September in the month preceding the annual Past Students' Gathering in Term 4, and the other around Easter. Articles, anecdotes, reminiscences, even a "Where Are They Now?" segment would be wonderful ways to reconnect with all who have spent some or even all of their secondary schooling here at St James. In addition, news about life at St James today will give past students insights into the way the school currently operates, its achievements, its programs, what it offers in co-curricular activities and its future plans.

The Year 12 Student Leaders this year instigated a motto at the start of the year that they hoped would continue the spirit and endeavour of our beloved St James. Entitled "Jimmies Spirit Shines" they used the star which is central to our College crest as a symbol of light, energy and spirit. Coupled with "Faithful Forever", this theme continues to pervade everything that happens here

at the College – be it in the classroom, on the sporting field, at the weekly Assembly, in service activities, and in all co-curricular events.

In a simple act of loyalty, students still touch the crest each morning as he or she enters the gates off Boundary Street continuing a tradition that extends back many years, a tradition that says much about what this school means as a place of hope and opportunity as well as security and safety.

Past students will be pleased to know that Jimmies has never lost its committed vision of providing educational opportunities for students of diverse needs and backgrounds. You may be interested to know that of the current enrolment of 450 students, there are over 40 different nationalities and cultural backgrounds represented among the student population. In addition, St James has gained a growing reputation for looking after students with particular learning differences and disabilities. St James continues to welcome young people from refugee backgrounds, Indigenous students and those who perhaps need a second

chance to start over in a new environment, and those who just want a small school situation where they can be themselves without judgement or prejudice, achieve their best – and achieve they do!

So, it is always a privilege to acknowledge and value the contribution you, as past students, have made to the College during your time here, and how you all keep the Jimmies spirit alive and active in your gatherings and reminiscences.

It is my pleasure to invite all of you to our forthcoming Past Students Gathering on Friday, 7 October, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the College Hall. Please contact my assistant, Naomi Ritchie, to record your acceptance.

**Gerry Crooks**  
Principal



# Coming Events

on Friday 7 October, 2011

in the St James College School Hall,  
201 Boundary Street, Brisbane

From 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Entry is \$15.00 per person  
with drinks on sale throughout the evening

Parking will be available on the lower playground  
of the College via Gloucester Street

RSVP by Wednesday 28 September, 2011

**Naomi Ritchie** – (07) 3839 4977  
Naomi.Ritchie@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

## Past Students Gathering

The Principal, Mr Gerry Crooks invites all  
past students of Jimmies to attend a

*St James Merchandise – On display at the Gathering will be the boxed set of four etched glass coasters featuring the St James College crest. These will be available for cash sale on the evening at \$20.00 per set.*



## Edmund Rice Education Australia

**St James College, a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.**

Most, if not all, past students are well aware of the wonderful legacy of the Christian Brothers in founding and operating schools all over Queensland and Australia. The Founder of the Order, Edmund Rice, well over 200 years ago in Ireland used his wealth as a merchant to rescue young people from the streets of his hometown of Waterford, clothed and fed them, and offered them hope through education for their future lives.

The Christian Brothers in Australia continued this calling in the schools they conducted. St James College commenced operations in 1868, the year Brother Ambrose Treacy set up the first school in Melbourne. It was not only the 1890s that the Brothers took over the running of the school from laymen.

The year 2007 saw the establishment by the Brothers of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), an organisation that would continue the work of the Brothers in education in this country.

In a very moving and celebratory event hosted by St James on 22 August this year, the College community was joined by the Congregational Leader of the Christian Brothers, Br Philip Pinto, members of the EREA Council and Board, Principals and representatives of schools throughout Queensland, as well as many other distinguished guests, for the launch of a new Charter for Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Centred on four Touchstones – *Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Justice and Solidarity and Inclusive Education* – the Charter calls on all schools and school communities to continue to authenticate their work in education by making the spirit of these touchstones a living reality.

Present on the day were also some distinguished past students – Very Rev Fr Ken Howell, Dean of St Stephen's Cathedral, and the Hon John Mickel MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. Brothers present included Br Vic Larkin, Br Terry Casey, Br Luke Quinn, Br Julian McDonald, Br Dean McGlaughlin, Br Chris Meehl, Br Paul Robertson, Br Peter Clinch, Br Bernie Gartland cfc, Br Ted Magee cfc, Br Ian Robertson cfc, Br Paul Oakley, Br Jude Butcher cfc AM, Br Kevin Buckley cfc, Br Denis Sullivan cfc, Br Peter Dowling, Br Mick Talty, Br Bob Wallace and Br Cyril Bosco.

It was a wonderful occasion and one that will live in the minds and hearts of all those present at St James on that day. We at the College were indeed privileged to be part of this event.

## Jimmies on the Dam

Many past students would be aware of the outdoor education facility "Jimmies on the Dam" at Maroon Dam outside Boonah. Unfortunately, over recent years, the property has suffered seriously from neglect and lack of funds to maintain it. However, in an exciting project that will ultimately see the redevelopment of the facilities, senior vocational education students studying Certificates in Construction and Engineering at St James, under the direction of the Head of Design and Technology, Mr Anthony Hill, are undertaking the first stage in the refurbishment of the buildings as an integral and practical part of the courses they are studying.

At various block times during this year, they have journeyed to the site, camped over for several days and commenced the reconstruction of the ablutions block as well as securing the dormitory and recreation hall. It is hoped that with the work of the students, the buildings will once again be the venue to exciting and productive outdoor education activities. The camping ground area is already able to be used.

Later stages include the removal of the old house, upgrades to the outer buildings and the installation of an outdoor kitchen facility and gazebo adjacent to the camping area.

Past students who would like to know more about this facility and how you might be able to lend assistance, either by way of donation or in the use of equipment or materials, are asked to contact the College Business Manager, Richard Occhipinti on 07 3839 4977 or at Richard.Occhipinti@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au



Very Reverend Fr Ken Howell, Mr Stephen Byrne.



Mr Gerry Crooks, Principal, College Captains Hayley Ross and K'Chin



Dr Wayne Tinsey with Atem Atem, Gasphe Obwona



Br Luke Quinn, Mr Chris Smith, Br Peter Dowling, Br Paul Oakley



## Co Curricular Update

The 2011 Interhouse Championship is heading for a dramatic climax after the latest points from the Athletics day were added. Long House took out this year's track and field honours with a dominant display at the Nudgee College Athletic circuit. Mary Rice House has a slender lead over Long House in the overall championship and with just one term remaining it could go either way. Hogan House and Carey House make up the final placing.

St James College has 10 students competing in next weeks Met East Track and Field trials. The college is gaining a reputation for producing some talented athletes through the association with the Thompson Estate Athletics Club at Carina. Senior student Sebit Rambang was part of this year's Queensland Cross Country team which won the National Competition in Canberra for the first time. Sebit brought home the Bronze in the senior boys relay.

The St James basketball program is on the rise after some fantastic performances at school and club level. The senior boys returned from St Dominic's, Penrith in the inaugural EREA Basketball tournament with third place medallions. They were so close to defeating eventual winners St Kevin's Toorak but were proud to win the Bronze. The senior girls' basketball dominated the club scene winning the U18 Girls' Division 1 grand final at Auchenflower. Both the senior boys and senior girls will be competing at this year's State tournament to be held in Brisbane mid September. The junior boys' basketball squads performed well with solid wins against Villanova College with the U13, U14, U15, U16 and Opens all victorious.

Confraternity Rugby League remains a popular event on the Co Curricular calendar with the boys displaying typical Jimmies spirit when they travelled to host school St Brendan's Yeppoon this year. The squad was extremely competitive with a gutsy win over Mt Maria College, the highlight of the carnival.

## Ministry Matters

This year continues to be another busy year in Ministry. The Brekkie Van has grown in strength of numbers and provides a valuable service learning opportunity for students. Every Friday, a small group of staff and students have been serving a cooked BBQ breakfast to a small number of homeless people under the Go-Between Bridge in West End. The community of people has remained strong, and many of the students volunteer several times a year. Melissa Tabulo of Year 10, a regular volunteer of a Friday morning, provided an excellent reflection of the relationships she has built: I've learnt that it really goes to show that an hour every Friday morning can always help someone, whether you just give them a friendly smile, some food, a pat on the back or even just 5 minutes listening to them. Everyone needs to be given the opportunity to live and to know that someone cares.

July also saw the first ever international student immersion for St James College, with the start of the East Timor Immersion Program. Eight senior students (Grace O'Keefe, James Pakchung, Eden Sacco & Alekisiso Ngauamo from Year 12 and Ceri-Anne Peleti, Jasmine Khan, Tayla Stavrinoudis & Kate Campbell from Year 11) spent ten days of their holidays in the world's second newest nation (newest until South Sudan's recent independence). Here they were exposed to village life, collecting water from the community tap, having no access to

St James College has won its first Senior Girls AFL pennant after a nail biting grand final against Grace Lutheran College yesterday. The final score was St James 4-4-28, Grace Lutheran 3-8-26. The match report by Coach Mr Greg Flint follows:

The girls started the game kicking into a strong breeze. From the outset it was apparent that it was an even battle with great tackling from both sides. Grace Lutheran kicking with the wind was able to get to 9 points in front at half time. In a tight second half St James started to peg back the difference with 2 goals to Tessa Vaoga. A late goal to Grace Lutheran appeared to seal the match for them; however the Jimmies team, with great spirit, were able to dig deep and with a minute to go hit the front for the first time with a goal to Demi MacCallum. A great team performance by all the girls.

A group of track stars hit the Gold Coast for the Down Under athletics meet with teams from New Zealand and the USA making the journey. Vivien Maschino was a stand out taking out the 200m in a cracking time of 23 seconds flat. Riffaat Toto and Dan Acuil were also impressive qualifying for states in the 4x400m. Well done to all students who gave up their time and a huge thanks to coach Tui Edwards and the Thompson Estate Athletics Club for sponsoring the students.

World Cup Soccer has once again swept through the college with the highest number of countries represented by the participating students. We had six female teams compete with the Indigenous squad defeating Europe 1 in the girls final. In the boys competition the countries were Korea, South America, Italy, Asia, Ireland/Scotland, New Zealand, Indigenous, three England sides, two Europe and a massive six African teams. The finals have just begun for the boys and it should be a fantastic finish.

Andrew Ebrington  
Sports Coordinator

## College Events

### Cultural Night

The annual College Cultural Night was held on the last Friday evening of May. For the many parents, friends and students who attended this event, it was a night to be truly remembered. All present witnessed an outstanding concert of immense diversity – dancing, singing, acting, instrumental performances and even magic – from students and staff who represented the over forty different nations and cultures of origin of the student community of St James. It was a wonderful evening with beautifully catered international food prepared and served by the College Hospitality Department staff and students.

### Trivia Night

This annual Parents & Friends major fundraiser took place on Friday 22 July in the school hall. Past student, Mr Adrian McDonald, was as he has been for the past three years, both the Master of Ceremonies and Quiz Master. The night was one of challenges, much discussion, laughter, fun and friendship and was very much enjoyed by all in attendance. A wonderful assortment of prizes had been kindly donated by families and various businesses and went a long way to contributing to the supply of much-needed resources enabling the College to carry on its work of education.

It would be wonderful to see our past students come along and enjoy the 2012 Trivia Night. Get together a table of up to 10 people. Alternatively you can simply contact the College and have your name placed at a table on your behalf. Keep an eye on the College website Home Page for event details or contact the College for event dates for your diary.



Patrick Rahilly, Joseph Yunis and Sekar Vuthy (2009)



Louise Quan and Enriko Di Lione



Mr Adrian McDonald

### Open Day

The College Open Day took place on Friday 5 August. It is a day when we stand tall and let the public know that here at St James there is a community that is proud of its heritage, that does its best to draw out the best in its students and that gets on with the job mindful of each individual young person who walks through its gates.

The displays of the curriculum offerings, the visits to classrooms and tours around the school, presented a future and unique experience for prospective students and their parents that would speak to them about the quality of education that takes place at St James.

Two past students – Joseph Yunis, 2008 College Captain and now a student in Bio-medical Science at the University of Queensland and Patrick Rahilly from the Class of 2010, studying a Bachelor of Education at Australian Catholic University – spoke of the quality of their teachers, their memories and their love of St James as well as how the school prepared them for their future lives. Two Year 8 students, Ebonie Martin and Haydn Mills, spoke wonderfully to the assembled group of parents and students about their journey over the past eight months of high school here at Jimmies. Louise Quan and Enriko Di Lione, current Year 11 students, described to parents the courses they were studying, both OP and Vocational, and their aspirations towards their future life. Mrs Terena Kennedy, a parent of two students at the school and member of the College's Parents and Friends, spoke movingly about the experiences of her children here at the College and her involvement as a parent.

Every day is 'open' at St James. The College delights in past, current and future students and parents calling in for a visit, to experience the atmosphere – joyous, chaotic, friendly and enriching – that pervades Jimmies. It is the staff, the students and their families that make this school community such an amazing place.