



St. Bernard's College,
Old Boys' Association

newsletter
dec 86

REPORT FROM THE 1986 REUNION

The following article appeared in the Blue Mountains Gazette following the reunion.



Pictured at the reunion are (left to right) Brother Patrick Howard, Brother Michael Cooper and Brother Leo Beasley, of St Bernard's College.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Norman T. Gilroy, opened a new boarding college in Katoomba.

Last weekend 89 old boys and their teachers travelled back to Katoomba for a reunion to commemorate that opening.

Known as St Bernard's, the college was built on a property known as Woodlands in Merriwa Street, and was owned and staffed by the De La Salle Brothers.

Post war growth maintained the college's viability.

But the recession in the early 60s saw a decline in the number of students and with a changing pattern in education and religion, the brothers closed the school in December, 1966.

This followed the earlier closure of its primary institute at Clavaix near Katoomba Falls.

The property and building is now the Katoomba Public School

Attending the reunion was the first principal, Brother Patrick, the longest serving principal, Brother Michael, and the last principal, Brother Leo.

They were joined by several other brothers, including a past principal of St Canice's Primary School, Brother Dermott.

Some of the first students — Sil Noonan, Ken Bowman, Keith Greig and John Toomey — were also on hand to enjoy a game of golf at Lawson, a dinner, Sunday Mass and an annual meeting followed by a barbecue.

The weekend began with a game of golf at Lawson, followed by a Barbecue, with tender steaks from the Butchery of Ray Stockley. Saturday evening saw a sit down dinner at Leura Gardens Motel, entertainment being provided by "The Brothers Four".

Sunday morning began with a Mass celebrated by Fr Barry Kirby OFM, followed by the usual lively General Meeting at which a number of important matters were discussed. The day was rounded off with a family barbecue in the grounds of the old College.

Over the weekend, the official attendance was 89, plus wives and children but a lot of other oldboys called in to one or more activities but failed to sign the book. Over 70% of the oldboys brought along wives and or children who proved beyond doubt that the gathering was more than an opportunity to meet and reminisce about old times. Many friendships have been renewed and many more made.

ATTENDEES

Michael Corbin, Colin Glynn, Barry Eddington, Barry Hopper, Rod Watson, John Fowler, Barry Kirby, John Tierney, Bill Tomiczek, Bruce Hodge, Bernard Proudlock, Peter Cummins, Geoff Millgate, John Martin, Pat Smith, Bro Claude, Frank Ryan, John McCoy, John Robinson, Barry Wormley, Ted McConville, Michael Cornell, David Burke, Michael Burke, Jim Joyce, Jim Briggs, Noel Yeo, Michael O'Connell, Peter Abood, John O'Connell, Ken Stasionis, Bro Leo, Michael McEnally, Patrick O'Connell, Peter Dawson, Russell Crook, Bro Maurice Salmon, Eddie Tierney, Gerard Mergan, Ron Nelson, Howard Smith, Brian Mattock,

Don Spongberg, Maurie Byron, John Walch, John Edwards, Mick Carter, Michael Birrell, Bernard Mackie, Ken Bowman, Pat Quealy, Tony Craddock, Barry Lumby, Barry Farrell, Pat Ryan, Graham Bennett, Peter Hunt, John Egan, David Dolby, John Lyndon, Tony Atkinson, Keith Greig, Michael Rooney, Weston Liao, John Vought, Kevin Gee, Ray Stockley, Colin Rhodes, Bro Patrick, Graeme Cobden, Paul Cobden, John Sumner, Bro Michael Cooper, Bro Dermot, Tony Brown, Bryan Gale, Colin Ogilvie, Les Grimson, Arno Nooran. Mike Yeo, Peter Moxon, Kevin Moxon, John Mergan plus many others who didn't sign the attendance book.

APOLOGIES

Geoff Woolfull, Michael Beary, Chris Harris, Paul Harris, Brian Sinclair, Victor Byrne, Bill Baaner, Dick Austen, Michael Craddock, Marcel Diebold, Greg Fitness, John Flissinger, Chris Doogan, Ted Grimson, John Mackrell, John Honeymen, Ken Mitchell, John Mitchell, Glen Mitchell, Ron O'Keefe, Tom O'Keefe, Hans Vandenberg, Sister Rhodes, Keith Wilde, Greg Fogarty, Arthur Fogarty.

YOUR 1986/1987 COMMITTEE

At the AGM, the committee elected were:

PRESIDENT	Michael Corbin
VICE PRES	Mick O'Connell
VICE PRES	John Walch
SECRETARY	Bro Leo
TREASURER	John Edwards
MAILLIST	Mike Yeo
ASST M/LST	Barry Farrell
MEMBERS	Peter Boccanfuso
	Chris Clifford
	Barry Hopper
	Pat Quealy
	John Tierney
	Rod Watson

Brother Leos address for general correspondence:

Bro James Beasley
De La Salle Monastery
530 Chapel Rd
BANKSTOWN 2200
Ph:02 708 2692

While most matters would be sent to Bro Leo, any new addresses or change of address can be sent directly to Mike Yeo at 31 Aberdeen Rd Winston Hills 2153, if you prefer.

RESULTS FROM LAST MAILING

The response from the last mailing was very encouraging. We heard from a lot of oldboys who had no doubt received previous mailings and at last repounded. THANK YOU.

If you are reading this and are one of the people who have not responded, please take the time and effort to respond to this newsletter, even to let us know that you are NOT INTERESTED in receiving mail. This small effort on your part will save us a lot of work, and the costs associated with it. (See article on subs)

TRACKING DOWN OLDBOYS

This continues to be the main job of your mailing list co-ordinator. So far, over 1100 names have been listed, with addresses on over 420 of them.

The yellow printout issued at the reunion and mailed to others has prompted a lot of response with much of the missing information being provided by jogging a few memories.

Sometimes the missing christian name provides the clue to assist someone else provide the address or at least someone else who may know their whereabouts.

To get the list up to date and keep it up to date requires help from all oldboys. Some are doing their bit but others could help more. It is surprising that a number of oldboys on the list have not offered the current address of brothers and cousins, for a start. Some families may lose touch, but not that many!! Come on, give a hand!!

Thanks to Terry Jordan and Bro Patrick for the loan of the Yearbooks. They have been very valuable in identifying their names and classyears of oldboys.

To the best of our knowledge, yearbooks were produced for the following years only: 42,43,44,45,46,47... 58,59,60,61 and 62. If you have any others or any records at all for the intervening years, please send a photocopy.

WHY DO WE NEED SO MUCH DETAIL ON OUR RECORDS?

Because of the large number of oldboys on our records, we have entered the details on a computer, in an effort to save a bit of work. It is a great system but still requires a lot of work to maintain up to date information. Its not much extra effort to collect a bit more info that will assist in organising the list of people for all sorts of reasons.

ALTERNATIVE ADDRESS

We ask for an alternative address because it has happened already, that oldboys have been located, mailed to, AND THEY MOVED WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW. Their name reverts to the unknowns list by default. With an alternative address, we have a chance of finding them again.

DATE OF BIRTH

There are a lot of common surnames, same initials and would you believe it, same christian names. Many oldboys were known by their second name. Some have since changed the name by which they were known at school and of course, memories do play tricks on all of us.

With the early records, it is often difficult to identify individuals without having some additional information. The date of birth gives that additional clue. Once we have located and identified the total school list, this aspect will be of little significance.

YEARCLASS

This is your "vintage". Regardless of how long you were at the school or what year you left, this year is the one you either did the LC, or would have if you were still there. This will explain why your 'yearclass' may be later than the last year you attended!

It allows a grouping of all the people that are likely to have known each other, and may wish to meet up with again. By collecting the records on computer, it is fairly simple matter to sort everyone into these groupings. This task is far from complete at this stage.

ZONE

For similar reasons, your current address is allocated a geographical zone. We have had many requests from oldboys wishing to form a local group to meet on an occasional basis. This area list will make it a lot easier than working through the full address list. In addition, this list could include phone numbers etc.

It has also been suggested that this list would assist the re-union organising by having a smaller, local group of people who would be in a better position to follow up people who may be known to them.

These groupings will be available for the March newsletter. If you would like to act as a local contact person, please let Brother Leo or Mike Yeo know as soon as possible but certainly by the end of February.

SUBS.. A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

Through the generosity of a number of oldboys who provided donations, we are in a healthy financial position. The reunion was designed to break even but made a slight loss, but we all had a good time .(See Report)

Our subs are the means of paying for the cost of printing, stationery and postage. With the plans for a regular newsletter, balancing the books will be a little more difficult unless all contribute. To date, donations have covered those who have not contributed, but this cannot go on forever.

Unless it would be a financial embarrassment, please forward your subs (\$10 pa) to enable us to meet ongoing expenses. If you DO NOT want to be on the mailing list, please let us know. There has to be a limit to how long we can mail you without you showing some interest.

REGULAR NEWSLETTER

Now that we are well underway as an organised Association, it is proposed to issue a regular newsletter, on Quarterly basis at the end of March, June, September and December. The September one will of course be the pre-reunion issue and the December one will contain, among other things, the report on the reunion.

NEXT ISSUE

Two regular features are planned for each issue, and we need you contributions for these items. Each issue we will feature one yearclass and one occupational group. The March issue will cover the 1942 group, a small but important group of people. This includes: John Burnheim, Bill O'Connell, and Ken Mitchell.

The occupational group selected is a large one - the RAAF. This should include all current and past members of the RAAF. This will include: Terry Jordan, Joe Cluney, Noel Yeo, Tony Van Look, Frank Riley RIP, Barry McGrath, Ken Warburton, Neil Playford, Geoff Medcalf, Michael Burke and many others.

WHAT WE NEED FOR THE MARCH ISSUE but before the end of February please (Why not do it now??) : What you are doing now and a brief background from the past till now. If you still have the contacts, you may use the RAAF system to locate some others, and let them know.



1987 REUNION - MARK YOUR DIARY NOW!

Sat 31st/Sun 1st Nov at Katoomba. Details to follow but format similar to 1986. Any ideas to make it even better?