



The Oakhill Drive

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Living LaSallian

Last year Br Paul Smith visited Oakhill College to speak to students and staff about the role of the Lasallian Foundation, whose purpose is to raise awareness and funds to help provide education and care for children in South East Asia.

As he presented the statistics and information about children living in poverty, at war and devastated by natural disaster, I couldn't help but think how we as a College community could put our faith into action and help out.

And so began months of planning and fundraising activities to enable a group of staff and six Year 11 students from the College to travel to India to assist the Brothers and Lay Partners in their work with children in need.

During the 2009 October holidays, we arrived in the town of Madurai in Southern India where the De La Salle Brothers run education programs and orphanages.

There we were confronted with the harsh reality of the statistics Br Paul had presented. And we saw with our own eyes the inspiring work being done to help these children by the Brothers and Lay Partners.

Br Paul's statistics are real. The children we met are real. Behind every one of them there are devastating, heart wrenching stories.

It felt satisfying that we were there to do something on a practical level. We spent one week living and working with the students and staff of Boys Town to help make flat pack furniture which were designed by Oakhill students. *(continued over)*



CELEBRATING OUR PAST – BUILDING OUR FUTURE



The second week was spent at the Boys Village and Girls Village orphanages building the flat pack furniture, as well as refurbishing and painting blackboards in the classrooms. In addition to offering our time and labour we brought toys, sporting equipment, clothing, tools,

wood and educational materials (kindly donated by the College community) for the children.

We returned home tired, dusty, with splinters, having learnt patience when the power didn't work just as we were making furniture, sick of honking horns, curry and rice.

We returned home with a greater understanding of faith, service and community and how the Lasallian family extends beyond the walls of our College and the shores of Australia.

We returned home knowing that the De La Salle Brothers in India, the Lasallian Foundation, and the Oakhill College community care about the children in India and by working together we can change their lives for the better.

For further information on how to help support the Lasallian Foundation go to www.lasallianfoundation.org

Mr Chris Goodman

Brother Donald Newton

11 May 1939 - 3 April 2010

Brother Don will be remembered by many ex-students, parents and staff having taught Mathematics and Religious Education from 1973 to 1977. Brother also lived at the College from 1997 to 2009 when he established and maintained the Provincial Archives. Brother Don died at Kensington on 3 April and his Mass of Thanksgiving and Funeral were held at the College on 9 April. Printed below is an excerpt from the eulogy given by Brother Ambrose Payne, Visitor.

“Thank you for your participation in this farewell Liturgy that has honoured the gift that Donald has been for us It has reminded us of the many and varied ways in which he has touched our lives. Our hope is that the members of his immediate family have been comforted by the numbers present some of whom have travelled long distances and who come from many walks of life.

Today is not the occasion on which I would attempt to speak on behalf of Brother Donald Newton. Don was always able to speak on behalf of himself. It is an occasion on which I would wish to speak about Donald as I came to appreciate the man that I commenced schooling with in kindergarten or 'bubs' as it was then called at St Jerome's in Punchbowl, the man with whom I received the habit and the man with whom I made final profession.



That man was extraordinarily gifted. By the time he entered the Novitiate those gifts had passed the test of external scrutiny and received public acknowledgement by many. The 1955-56 "Green and Gold" Magazine of De La Salle College Marrickville records the number of 'firsts' achieved by the young Donald Scott Newton. He was the first Marrickville student to hold the positions of School Captain, Adjutant of the College Cadet Corps and Dux of the

College simultaneously. In addition he was President of the Sodality of Our Lady. At the Leaving Certificate Don took out first place in English, Latin, French and Modern History. His performance in the Leaving Certificate gained him a Commonwealth Scholarship. Not at all as well known was his membership of the 10 stone division Newton District Rugby League Knockout Championship team.

The intellectual acuity, of which such a broad range of achievements is an indication, never deserted Donald as he went through life. Few rivalled his encyclopaedic knowledge of matters of human interest, history, the arts, theology, languages, philosophy and what many failed to recognise, psychology. He read widely, he revealed himself as an excellent raconteur; he continued Certificate Level studies in German and Computing. As a teacher he stood out as always completely prepared, committed to correction and remediation, expecting the best of himself and giving it unreservedly. There is a touching account of the way in which he understood teaching as a relationship. *One of the greatest delights I have had this year was to see how a senior boy had responded with pleasure after I had a talk with him (not about his soul but about his studies and how to improve them). Hitherto he had been indifferent to me, but someone had*

spoken to him without reproof or criticism, with interest and a little admiration, and a bond had been formed.

His availability as a teacher was generous in the extreme. It was frequently at the expense of far more pleasant options. His weekends were the only time for study and preparation and turned into an extension of his working week. It is not surprising that this level of dedication and the tasks which he was required to do provided the basis for a set of priorities that placed students first and foremost so that by the completion of his term of appointment at Cronulla he enjoyed the well-merited reputation of being an excellent teacher in every respect, the manner in which he is remembered by so many present here today.

I believe that sanctity is present in our world. I believe that the account of Don's life as reflected in this eulogy is the stuff of sanctity. What he would never have accorded to himself is I believe merited in our estimation and worthy of our admiration. We pray confidently for his eternal rest. We pray earnestly that he now enjoys the peace that for the love of Christ he may have not encountered in this life. We acknowledge the mystery which is at the heart of any relationship with our Creator.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you identify the people in this photo? A prize will be awarded to the person who is the first to correctly name them.

Send entries to Steve Molloy at the College or email drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au.

The winner of the Mystery Photo competition, after the largest response to date, in Volume 19 was Tony Fraser (Class of 1962).

(NB: College staff are ineligible to enter this competition!)



Why not become a Golf Day Sponsor?

The fourth annual Parents and Friends Golf Day is scheduled for Friday August 13th at Riverside Oaks Golf Course. A few Hole Sponsorships are still available - so why not join the existing sponsors, support the College and obtain exposure for your business:

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Better Built Group	Evotec PL

For further information, contact Mark Bevan (Class of 1977) at mark@haltech.com.au



Ex-Student News

James Cowling – Class of 1999

We recently received the following email from James, who is continuing to achieve in his academic life:

After graduating from Oakhill, I received the Sir William Tyree Scholarship to study Computer Science at Sydney University. While doing my undergrad, I received an International Exchange Scholarship to study for a year at the University of California, San Diego. I had a really fun year in California, got to travel around the USA, and was awarded International Resident of the Year at UCSD. After returning to Sydney University, I completed my honours in Computer Science, and was awarded the University Medal, as well as the Convocation Medal for Exceptional Contributions to the Life of the University.

After graduating, I was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship in Science and Technology, to study in the USA. I worked for a research organization in Sydney for nine months, and then flew over here to Cambridge Massachusetts, where I have completed my Masters in Computer Science and am currently working on my PhD thesis. During my PhD I spent some time working in Cambridge England (the other Cambridge) where I was able to catch up with friends from Oakhill, and do some travelling in Europe.

I'm working part-time as a peer counsellor and mediator for graduate students at MIT, and spent some time as the president of the Student Committee. In my spare time I like to play guitar and bass, go cycling, host a college radio show, and help out with student activities in the lab. In my most recent vacation I cycled from Wyoming to Montana, passing through Yosemite National Park, at over 8000 feet elevation and below -10° C - it was a really fun trip despite the cold.

Editor's Note: the accompanying photograph shows James cycling in sub-zero conditions - friends may have difficulty identifying him!



Alicia Crawley – Class of 1999

Alicia completed an accounting degree at Macquarie University after graduating from Oakhill, but her heart has always been set on marine research. So she moved to Townsville and completed a Bachelor of Marine Science at James Cook University. Alicia met an overseas student there, Jonathan Lloyd, and they are engaged to be married in September 2010 at Port Douglas. They now live in Brisbane where Alicia has completed her masters at the University of Queensland and Jonathan is working at UQ in the Chemistry and Molecular Bioscience laboratories. Alicia will complete her PhD early next year. Alicia was recently awarded the Ian Potter 2009 Doctoral Fellowship by the Australian Museum and the Lizard Island Research Station. The award allows her to determine the risk of ocean acidification for the northern Great Barrier Reef. Her research looks at the response of corals to increased temperature and CO₂ and investigates the genetic changes that corals make in order to acclimatise to these conditions.

Alicia continues to promote sustainable living at every opportunity through the media and recently appeared on the ABC'S 730 report discussing the dire consequences of Carbon emissions on the Great Barrier Reef.

Michael Bertoldo – Class of 2001

Vital research by Michael to reduce pregnancy loss in pigs was rewarded with a 2009 Science and Innovation Award. Michael was presented with the Australian Pork Limited Award, part of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Science "Innovation Awards for Young People" at a presentation dinner at Parliament House, Canberra. He also recently won the Meat & Livestock Australia Award for a presentation on his research at the 2009 Society for Reproductive Biology Annual Conference in Adelaide.

After leaving Oakhill, Michael completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and continued on to undertake a PhD in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at The University of Sydney, where he also assists in teaching veterinary science students. After finishing his PhD, Michael plans to travel to Europe to continue his research in reproductive biology next year. Michael also cycles and scuba dives when he can and still stays in contact with his mates from school.



**Anita Degabriele
– Class of 2008**

Anita is currently in her second year of an Advanced Diploma of Electrical Engineering and plans to graduate in December of this year.

Anita recently provided us with the following update: "Since I have been studying I have had such a great increase of interest in Engineering. This year, as part of an elective, I plan on building a new Modem for my computer. I am really enjoying all of the practical work involved in my course. In the future I would like to work with PLC's -Programmable Logic Controllers.

Being the only girl in the course can be challenging at times, but so far I have been using it as an advantage over everyone else! I also really enjoy building electronic circuits and putting them to use.

Last month I built an 'Electronic Eye' for my dad's office, designed to beep when someone walks through a doorway.

I have just joined the Engineers Association of Australia as a student, which is meant to provide us with lectures and courses to constantly update our knowledge, as well as giving us the opportunity to meet possible future employers.

During the week, I tutor high school students, most of my students this year are from Oakhill! I have been tutoring Maths, Physics and some English classes for the past 2 years and really enjoy it. Plus my students always keep me up to date with what's happening at Oakhill.

I just sat for my Firearms Licence exam, and joined St. Mary's Shooting Association. This has become a new hobby of mine and I really enjoy it. I have recently discovered motor cross riding as well, it's an awesome sport to get covered in mud and dust!

Since leaving Oakhill, I suppose you leave many good friends behind, because it's impossible to keep in touch with everyone! However I still talk to many good friends from school, who I love going out with. We always joke about our memories of school, but also how much we miss it as well.

Over the Easter Break this year, I will be celebrating my 19th birthday so I am looking forward to having some time off with my family."

**Jane Finlay
(nee Cowling)
– Class of 2002**

On August 12th 2006, Jane married Dom Finlay at the Oakhill Chapel. The wedding was followed by a reception at Riverside Oaks. Jane is pictured at the wedding with Dom and her parents.

After studying Primary Education at UTS, Jane was targeted to teach at Waitara Public School, where she has now been teaching for 3 years, a job she reports that she "absolutely loves"!



**David Kennedy
– Class of 1999**

After graduating from Oakhill, David completed a Music Business Course whilst working part-time with Hillsong Music in their dispatch department. At 20 years of age David left for the UK and lived in Edinburgh for 6 weeks before moving to London.

He worked in a variety of jobs in London (including caring for an autistic blind boy) and then started teaching music (guitar) at two private schools, an occupation he loved. He now works as a Creative Pastor with the Hillsong church and travels a lot through out Europe and Asia with the Hillsong London band. He is also involved in crusades with Joyce Myer, Reinhard Bonnke and others.

David expects to stay permanently in London but may later resettle in Norway with his wife Ingrid and her family. He has kept in touch with Mark Harrison (Class of 2000) in particular as he also lives in London. David is pictured at his wedding to Ingrid.



Ghada Pedic (nee Chedid) – Class of 1984

Ghada attended Oakhill in 1983 and 1984. After she left school Ghada met Fadil Pedic who she married in 1986. Ghada has a teaching degree from Macquarie University and worked in early childhood until her eldest son, Justin, was born. In 1999 Ghada and Fadil opened up their own Social-market research firm, The Research Forum (www.resforum.com.au) which they continue to operate. In her spare time, Ghada enjoys Yoga.

The accompanying photograph shows Ghada with her sons Justin (Year 9) and Daniel (Year 7).

Ben Crawley – Class of 2002

Ben is pictured with his fiancée, Carmen Normoyle. They were engaged in January this year and no date has been set as yet for their wedding. Ben completed his Bachelor of Exercise Science at Australian Catholic University and has been working as an Exercise Physiologist for three years. Ben was a keen cricketer since 8 years old and played for NSW under 17 whilst still at Oakhill. He has given up his bat since then and prefers other forms of exercise like cycling or kayaking instead.





Luke Joslin – Class of 1997

After graduating from Oakhill, Luke completed a Bachelors degree in Communications at UWS and a one year acting course at the Actors College Of Theatre and Television.

In a recent email to the College Luke wrote: "For a few years after I completed my degree I went and worked for Gerry Harvey (Harvey Norman). Gerry has his own in-house Advertising Agency. I worked as a copywriter and Photographic Assistant. I enjoyed

this work but was always itching to work on stage. So, I decided to give myself a chance by firstly studying, obtaining reputable representation and auditioning.

My first audition out of studying was for a national tour of Dirty Dancing - the musical. To cut a long story short I scored a part. Ever since I have worked professionally. My main body of work would be within the realm of Musical Theatre. Shows include Titanic the Musical, Sunday In the Park with George, Guys and Dolls and of course Avenue Q. Recently I won a Greenroom Award for best featured actor in a musical (pertaining to Avenue Q). This would have to be a career highlight so far. To be acknowledged for something I adore doing so much is a bonus for me.

I remain friends with Matt Ryan and Nick Norton, who I regularly see. I wish I ran into old school mates more than I do now. The year of '97 was a damn good year!"

Editor's note: A Green Room Award is not a popularity award: as the Green Awards Association notes: "Because of the steadfast vigilance of our 6 panels (comprising over 60 qualified, experienced and learned industry professionals); Cabaret, Dance, Drama, Fringe, Music Theatre and Opera, a Green Room Award has become the most significant accolade an artist performing in Melbourne can receive. Indeed, a nomination now carries prodigious biographical weight for performing and technical artists in all 6 disciplines."



Isabelle Paras (nee Angseesing) – Class of 1985

After leaving Oakhill College, Isabelle joined the Commonwealth Bank on a cadetship. After working through the ranks, she was placed in the Human Resources Department of CBA. Isabelle worked in HR for close to 7

years; after the birth of her children she undertook part time employment with the bank. Isabelle was with the CBA for 18 years and is now back in the work force assisting her Uncle who is a dentist in the Castle Hill area. Isabelle wrote, "I have wonderful memories of Oakhill from Teachers and students. I am so proud to see my John being a part of the Oakhill College."

Adam Rodwell – Class of 2000 and Alana Rodwell (nee Verdon) – Class of 2001

Adam and Alana were married on the 4th April 2009. After meeting at Oakhill College seven years ago, they celebrated their special day with ninety of their closest friends and family



including their groomsmen, all ex-students: Paul Clancy (class of 2000), Michael Vickers (class of 2000) and Nathan Rodwell (class of 1995); and bridesmaids, Lisa Atkinson, Sheryn Corner and Laura Dalgliesh. Following a fun filled reception, they honeymooned in Hayman Island and Port Douglas for 2 weeks and now live in Pitt Town.



Steven Morabito – Class of 1987

Steven writes that "my love for food was evident". After completing his School certificate he decided to start working at Il Vicolo restaurant in Top Ryde, one of Sydney's best known restaurants, where he completed his four year apprenticeship at TAFE College in Ryde.

During the last 23 years Steven has handled a wide range of cuisines, working long hours averaging 50 to 80 hour weeks. In a recent email Steven reported, "Working at

the Observatory Hotel was one of my favourites as it showed me many challenges and techniques within the industry. I simply enjoyed being in charge or part of a team and creating great food for people to enjoy.

In between work and everyday life I've kept my passion for windsurfing, motor racing and travelling as a major part of my life. During this time I met my beautiful wife Alexandra who I married in 1996. Two years later we had our only son, Harrison who has been the joy to both our lives. In the last five years I have been working locally in Bella Vista giving up the long hours and weekend work as now I support my son with his passion of racing Go Karts. We are both members of the Australian Kart Association and have great times and memories together.

I still remember the great times we all had at Oakhill. It is a culture that will stay with me till the end as I feel extremely proud of being part of the Oakhill family. "

Steven is pictured with his son Harrison, now in Year 7 at the College.



**Alex Parle and Thea Parle (nee Collings)
– Class of 1986**

After completing the Higher School Certificate, Alex and Thea commenced tertiary studies, a B.Sci and B.Ed respectively and were married in the College Chapel in late 1991. Alex is in IT and has returned recently to work in the Gaming Industry after a brief stint with Woolworths. Thea has spent twenty years teaching PDHPE locally, first at OLMC and more recently at Mount St. Benedicts. Both are still actively involved in sport with Athletics, Basketball and Rugby now occupying most of their free time with Lachlan in Year 7 and their daughter Kiera in Year 5.

Thea writes, “We were pleasantly surprised to see some familiar staff faces after all these years, namely Mrs Pam Snow, Mr Tony Attard and Mr Steve Hogan. Our circle of close friends has expanded in the last twenty-four years but our Oakhill friends remain at the core.”

**Warren Brooks
– Class of 1980**

Warren attended Oakhill along with his three brothers Mark, Alan, Robert as well as one future brother-in-law and around ten cousins (the Southern, Walter and Madden families). After leaving school Warren and his brothers worked in their family grocery business, L.C. Brooks Pty. Ltd..

Two years ago the business was sold after 77 years of trading. Warren and his three brothers are all married and each have three children. Mark now works as a Business Manager at Marist Brothers North Sydney and Alan and Robert both work in the Confectionery Industry.

Warren writes, “After 30 years in the grocery industry I now work at Hills Bus at Dural which is a nice change. Most of my spare time is involved with my children's sporting clubs. I'm very involved with Matt's Rugby League Club, the Carlingford



Cougars. I've been running in the City to Surf Race each year over the last 34 years and the accompanying picture shows Matt and myself after a recent 10k run. It's not hard to guess who beat the other by 20 minutes!”

Warwick Anderson – Class of 1979

Warwick is a solicitor running his own practice in Dural (Anderson Boemi Lawyers). After leaving Oakhill, Warwick spent about ten years in the NSW Police Force, during which time he completed his legal studies. For many years he played rugby with the College Old Boys, and continues to play over-35 rugby with the Oakhill “Withered Oaks”.

Warwick is pictured with his sons, Joshua (Year 9) and Lachlan (Year 7).



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Sport at Oakhill

To say the results achieved by our summer sporting teams were above expectation would be an understatement. This season our swimming team and basketball teams in particular have achieved levels of success never seen before at Oakhill College. I hope our winter sports men and women can emulate these successes in their upcoming season.

The swimming season for the Oakhill swim team commenced in term 4, with our boys' team winning virtually all carnivals they entered. The 2010 school year commenced with a solid victory at the St Andrew's Carnival, followed by another win at the Redlands Carnival. At the Oakhill Carnival all three divisions were victorious, with our swim team entering the ISA championships full of confidence.

After winning the tile for the past four years, the Oakhill swim team is always the team to beat, with other schools measuring their levels of success as to how they compete against the Oakhill swim team. Pressure sometimes causes athletes to fail; however, such pressure only seems to inspire our athletes to bigger and better things.

Although it is difficult to single out individual performances, there are two efforts at the carnival that deserve special mention. Year 12 student and swim captain Kurt Herzog has had an amazing summer to say the least. After winning the National 5km open water event in Victoria in February, Kurt set a new ISA 100 metre freestyle record, breaking the old record, incidentally held by ex-Oakhill swim captain Grant Brits. Kurt swam a time of 53.01, breaking the old record by 1 1/2 seconds. Not ready to finish with just one record, Kurt teamed up with three other Oakhill swimmers to smash the 4 x 50 metre freestyle record, setting a new time of 1 minute and 39 seconds. The



other 3 team members were twin brothers Luke and Nathan Roughley and Jordan Burden.

As well as these outstanding individual achievements, our team as a whole once again performed admirably, winning the Junior, Senior, Open Girls and Overall boys shield. Such success would not be possible were it not for the dedicated staff we have assisting with all aspects of the swim program. To Mr Bowles and Mrs Brits in particular, thank you for your assistance this year with the swim team.

The day after the swim carnival, seven Oakhill teams were involved in ISA basketball finals and, for the first time in ISA basketball history, Oakhill won 7 out of seven finals. Based on some of the talent in our younger age groups I think Oakhill will be a force in basketball for many years to come. Congratulations to the following premier teams for 2009/2010: 13 White; 13 A's; 14 A's; 15 A's; 17 Maroon; 17 Gold; 1st V.

Congratulations also to the 4 boys and 2 girls who have been selected to represent the ISA this year -Natalie Yanakopoulis, Chaiara Baitieri, Tom Barrett, Jake Tribolet, Sam Laumann and Greg Mainstone. Oakhill once again won the Schools Championship Shield - awarded for the school with the best results overall.



The annual cross country was held on Monday 8th May in preparation for the ISA championships. Whilst the swimming and athletics carnival have enjoyable components, few people would find running up to 5000m as fast as one can enjoyable. However, still over 50 students turned up to represent their house and win points to secure the Br Alf Zoanetti Shield for the champion house - Cross Country. In addition, the carnival is used to determine the age champions for each year group. Congratulations to the boys and girls who won their respective Divisions:

On an individual level, Oakhill students continue to excel in a wide variety of sports at the highest level. Well done to Jordan Smith and Jordan Thompson who have both been selected in the NSW Schools tennis team this year. Jordan Thompson was also a member of the CIS team of the year (along with Jordan Smith's older brother Cameron). Well done also to Danielle White (year 12) who received a CIS award for her selection in the Australian Schools Water Polo team earlier this year - a great achievement.

At the time of publication, training has begun for the 2010 winter season with students turning out in record numbers to represent the College. This year we will field 20 rugby teams, 12 soccer teams, 6 netball teams, one girl's hockey team and 10 tennis teams. Good luck to all players this winter!

Mr Tulevski
Sportsmaster



Oakhill Old Boys

Oakhill Old Boys Rugby Club was founded in 1972 when the Oakhill Old Collegians Association decided to enter a team in the Sydney Sub-District Rugby Union Competition. With the aid of the Fathers' Association, the necessary finance was raised, and one team was entered. Success was immediate with a premiership in the Noice Cup.

Oakhill Old Boys has received strong support from Old Boys of the college over the last several decades. The club is not exclusively for former Oakhill students, but for any one who enjoys competitive rugby set in a social environment that recognises the true ethos of rugby.

Oakhill Old Boys have achieved outstanding success since its inception, most recently winning the Noice Cup in 2008.

2010 promises to be an exciting year both on and off the pitch. Oakhill Old Boys would like to invite new rugby players, supporters and sponsors to



Oakhill Old Boys to join in the fun and camaraderie that only rugby can deliver.

Please visit <http://oakhill.rugbynet.com.au> or visit the Oakhill Old Boys facebook page, or contact Aaron Beasley on 0403 762 079 or Blake Baxter on 0414 228 746 for further information on training and game times and locations.

Ex-Student News

Travis Smith – Class of 1992 R.I.P.

After completing school in 1992, Travis joined public works to complete his plumbing apprenticeship. After a few years on the tools he decided a change was order and made a move to Sales at Hutchison Telecommunications. He then moved to Coates Hire and over the next eight years he worked his way up the ladder eventually earning his dream job as a Business Development Manager.

In 1998 Travis married the love of his life Renee Cole and together they had two beautiful boys Kyan (aged 5) and Cody (aged 3). Travis loved his family and was a fantastic father be it all only for a short time.

Travis was well known for his love of hobbies: fishing, remote control car racing, star wars and lego just to name a few. In June 2009 he was lucky enough to win a Barramundi fishing trip up north where he not only had the time of his life but caught the biggest fish!

On 7th November 2009 after a spending a great day together with his family and celebrating his 11th Wedding anniversary Travis passed away at his home in Toongabbie suddenly. He was cremated on November 16, at Castlebrook crematorium, following mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Baulkham Hills. He now rests in peace in Castlebrook Memorial Park.

Travis is sadly missed by his lovely wife Renee, son's Kyan and Cody, sister Briana (Class of 1993), and parents David and Joan. He was 35 years old at the time of his death.



Darcy Pavlich – Class of 1948

In a recent email to the College following publication in the SMH of an article by Peter Fitzsimons which praised the success achieved by Oakhill's swimming teams, Darcy wrote, "It really warmed the cockles of my heart, to read how successful my old Alma Mata's sporting teams are these days, particularly because I now live on the Gold Coast and only read of how great Queenslanders are. Except for Fits files, and the Oakhill Drive, I would be totally submerged.

In 1942 I was one of the senior members of the student body, because I was 12, the second oldest in the school, which consisted of 40 male boarders and 7 day boys.

There were no sporting idols as such, the most revered bloke, was whoever won the daily game of Holey or Big ring, two games of marbles which was our main competitive game at the time, however it didn't contribute much to the physical attributes of the players.



My main reason in writing is to tell you about the Oakhill swimming pool, while I was a boarder.

It was a dam formed by building a wall at the Eastern end of the Northernmost Gully of the then Oakhill farm. The wall was supported by split logs about a foot wide and about twelve feet deep. That wall was about 30 yards wide and the length of the sides tapered up the gully to nothing where the farm animals used to drink.

Although the water was brown and tasted a bit muddy, we had a diving board at the deep end, and one was considered talented if you could dive to the bottom and stir up the mud.

While the water wasn't sanitised it was quite adequate for the purpose of cooling off and having fun, which was probably the main purpose of swimming in those days and maybe the only primary school in those days who could boast of a swimming pool".

Editor's Note: The accompanying photograph is one of the very few we have of the "old Pool".

Bryce Cavanagh – Class of 1995

After leaving Oakhill in 1995 Bryce was lucky enough to walk straight out of five years at university studying sport science into a job as a strength and conditioning coach with the NSW Waratahs. Bryce worked with the Waratahs for five years alongside other Oakhill ex-students Adam Leach (Class of 1989) and Scott Wisemantel (Class of 1988). Another six years on and after a move to the Caribbean island of Antigua to live and tour the world looking after the West Indies Cricket team, he now is in his 4th season under head coach Paul Roos at the Sydney Swans as the Strength and Rehabilitation Coach.

Coming back to Australia allowed Bryce to marry partner Brooke McKinnon in 2008 with his three best mates from Oakhill as his groomsmen (Darryn Macey, Brett Edwards & Rodney Frost - all Class of 1995). Bryce lives in the Eastern suburbs and spends any spare time active outdoors and enjoying time with his now one year old daughter Hudson honing his sandcastle building skills.





Alex Caraco – Class of 1980

After completing school in 1992, Travis joined public works After leaving Oakhill College in 1980, Alex travelled for six months before commencing a long and successful career in the real estate industry. Now CEO of Coldwell Banker Greater Australia, Alex started his career in Real Estate at the bright young age of 7, (in 1969) placing real estate signs on balconies in Manly for Project Marketing Developments for the Portland Development Group in Sydney then being the LJ Hooker Corporation.

Over the many formative years Alex progressively learnt how to run a Real Estate office by dealing with all facets of the industry from property management to sales. He sold his first prestige property in 1980 for a colossal price of \$250,000 at the age of 18. Alex moved on to open his first office Castle Hill in Sydney at the age of 24 with 6 staff and specialised in Land and New Home Project Marketing. Soon after, Alex sold that business in pursuit of being Australia's youngest Franchisee for LJ Hooker in the Northern Suburbs of Sydney, winning many awards for excellence for marketing and Auctions and seven years of sales.

Alex moved to the development arena and became a waterfront developer in the Sutherland Shire and built two high end Mansions by the water. During the course of development Alex set up three Real Estate offices specialising

in high volume sales before negotiating to bring Coldwell Banker to Australia in early 2002.

Today some thirty offices have been established that service four states with over 400 staff. Alex brings to the table 28 years of full time experience and has studied Real Estate & Franchising at two Universities and attended courses in New York on Global Marketing. During the course of his career, Alex has visited over 53 countries and attended 14 major conventions in the USA and met with over 150,000 sales associates around the world. Alex now lives in Ephraim Island, Gold Coast with his two children Tim, aged 20, and Courtney aged 16. In recent correspondence from Alex, he attributes part of his success to his education at Oakhill which encouraged him to set high goals in life.

Monica Kazmierski – Class of 2004

Monica recently updated us on her life post-Oakhill: "Since finishing Oakhill in 2004 completed a Bachelor of Arts in Social Psychology and Social Research and Post-Graduate degree in Master of Primary Teaching at UWS. Since graduating in mid-2009 I've been working as a casual teacher in the Hills area and absolutely love it! Teaching is something I saw myself doing since I was a little girl. I'm learning more about the profession everyday, and everyday the kids make me smile.

I was never good at sports at school, but in the last five and a half years I've developed a passion for fitness. My love of going to the gym and training in Muay Thai Kickboxing (both in Sydney and Phuket) led to me wanting to push myself further. I have now competed in three Australasian Natural Bodybuilding (A.N.B.) shows as a figure competitor placing 5th, 3rd and 2nd sequentially. I'm currently in training for my 4th and 5th shows aiming for 1st place (fingers crossed). I love the challenge the sport provides although dieting would have to be my least favourite aspect!

This year I look forward to travelling with upcoming trips planned in both Europe and South America." Monica is pictured with her partner and trainer, Cameron Wilson.



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Bart Bunting – Class of 1993

Bart participated in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Paralympics, along with fellow ex-student, Nick Watts (Class of 2004). He achieved 14th place in the Men's Giant Slalom. This followed his two Gold and one Silver medals at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Paralympics.

Bart, who has been blind from birth, does not see his vision impairment as a disability but rather as a natural part of his life. "For me, it's just how it is, it's not something that you worry about," says Bart. All competitors in Bart's B1 classification ski with blacked-out goggles and his guide Nathan Chivers tells Bart where to turn and advises him on snow conditions.

Of the 2010 competition, Bart said "The games in Canada were well run under trying conditions as the snow was more than plentiful. The courses were of a high standard and I am looking forward to attending the next Paralympics in Sochi Russia in 2014."



Lauren Hung – Class of 2007

On graduating from Oakhill in 2007, Lauren Hung received a full academic scholarship to study

Fashion and Textile Design at Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia. Not content to spend three more years simply studying, Lauren has gained industry experience in a variety of related fields. In May 2009, her textile and multimedia work was chosen for an art exhibition at the Moore's Gallery. In September 2009, Lauren astounded herself by winning the Perth Fashion Festival Student Runway Ready-to-Wear Women's category despite being up against 17 graduate fashion students. Her work has been featured in Western Australian shopping centres, fashion stores and she



is currently training to be assistant editor of MYM Magazine; a new fashion initiative of the Colosoul Magazine group that aims to assist emerging designers, photographers and models establish themselves nationally.

In the midst of this, Lauren launched her own lifestyle brand, 'Eve of Adam' in August 2009. Feeling that the emergence of raunch culture has degraded the quality and elegance of fashion and stripped young women of their right to be playful, wide-eyed and innocent, the label aims to give women a second chance at their childhood and redirect their way of expressing their sexuality. Her 'Taster Collection' was picked up by the small independent film, 'Facade' produced by Bolderpictures and written and directed by Yu-Hsiu Camille Chen and received an overwhelming response nationally. In November 2009, 'Eve of Adam' was selected to debut at the prestigious Sydney Fashion Exposed Trade Fair 2010. The experience saw Lauren's brand and 11 others chosen from across New Zealand and Australia from the largest number of entries the competition had ever seen. Lauren spent three months in Sydney intensively designing, creating, promoting and documenting the Spring Summer 10/11 collection named 1:1 for the event in February 2010. She was honoured to collaborate with fellow ex-Oakhill students Tanya Stone (Class of 2006) and Alexandra Mulder (Class of 2007) as part of the brand's promotion. The three day event provided the brand with exposure to an international audience both from the brand's stand and on the runway. Having returned to Perth, 'Eve of Adam' has featured in prominent industry magazines, Ragtrader and Australasian Textiles and Fashion as well as mainstream media and blogs - The West Australian, Western Independent etc. The collection will be stocked in This Fine Day Boutique, Maylands (WA) in the coming Spring/Summer. Lauren is enjoying her time in WA and plans to remain Perth-based until she completes her degree in two years - at which time she will stay or move according to the opportunities afforded to 'Eve of Adam'. For more information on the brand visit the website www.eveofadam.com.au or email info@eveofadam.com.au

Nick Watts – Class of 2004

Nick Watts has just returned to Australia after competing in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Paralympics, along with fellow ex-student, Bart Bunting (Class

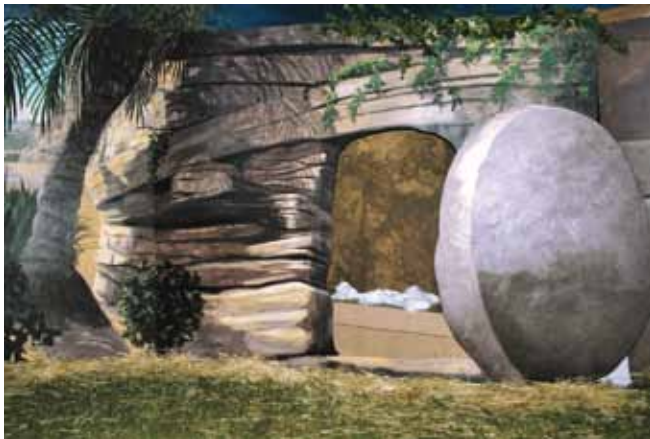
of 1993). Nick has been skiing on the Australian Winter Paralympic Alpine Ski Team for 8 years now and this was his second Paralympics, having competed in the 2006 Torino Paralympics. He lost his left leg to cancer when he was eight years old and now skis on a single ski.

Nick only just made it to the Paralympics after he broke his leg in a training accident in New Zealand six months before the games. He was air lifted to Christchurch hospital to have a rod inserted into his tibia. "I didn't even know if I would be able to ski again, let alone race at the games."

Despite this Nick still managed to come 31st in the Super Giant Slalom. "It was very frustrating as I wasn't able to ski at 100% but I was just happy to be there. It was difficult but you only get one shot at life and you have to make the most of all the opportunities you are given, be that in sporting or academic. Life is something you can't take for granted. "

Nick is currently in his final year of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Sydney and hopes to continue racing and compete in the 2014 Paralympics in Sochi, Russia.





Michael Vandertoorn – Class of 1984

Michael has advised us of an amazing production in which he has been heavily involved, the Bethlehem Experience. This is an interactive, walk through, re-creation of the city of Bethlehem hosted by ImagineNations Church Penrith (formerly Penrith Christian Life Centre) where visitors are transported back in time, 2000 years ago, during heavy Roman occupation, to a small Jewish community desperately waiting for deliverance with the arrival of their promised Messiah.

Visiting groups are led through Bethlehem by a guide, in period costume. Along their journey they interact with local guards, spiritual leaders, shop keepers, shepherds and beggars. Every turn through this amazing city reveals more and more pieces in the foretold story of the Messiah. Utilising the many parables of Jesus and other biblical stories, the pieces fit together help

illuminate Jesus' walk - His birth, life, death, right through to His glorious resurrection. The journey lasts around 25 minutes and ends with a brief explanation of the relevance of Christ's journey and how it is still just as applicable today.

Since 2001, during the 6 times that we have run The Bethlehem Experience, between 40 - 50 thousand people have travelled through the city, hearing about the life of Jesus and why he came. Some have even come in groups, by coach and bus, to see Bethlehem from as far away as Newcastle.

Joel Hogan – Class of 2005

After graduating in 2005 Joel completed a Certificate IV Diploma in the Performing Arts at ED5 International (Strathfield). The following year Joel was chosen as a contestant in "Dirty Dancing - The Time of Your Life" which was filmed in Virginia, USA. On returning to Australia

Joel secured a part in "High School Musical" the stage production in Sydney and now finds himself in New York.



Last year Joel was awarded a part scholarship with the New York Film Academy and this year he has been accepted into The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute (school for the performing arts) located in New York City. The Institute was founded in 1969 by Lee Strasberg, teacher and artistic director at the famed Actors Studio and is dedicated to teaching the techniques of method acting developed by Strasberg. He was the chief proponent of "method acting" from the 1920's until his death in 1982 and he trained several generations of theatre and film's most illustrious talents, including Dustin Hoffman, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Paul Newman and Al Pacino. The institute is currently under the artistic direction of Anna Strasberg, his wife.

Joel is loving the New York experience and finding the course "awesome". On his first stroll through Central Park he ran into the actor Kevin Bacon (walking his dogs)! Kevin was nice enough to chat with Joel, write in his diary and wish him well with his acting career. Joel has been lucky enough to be invited, as a guest of a friend in New York, to attend a session at the "Actors Studio" and has recently attended his first Broadway production.

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Michelle Cordina – Class of 2005

Michelle graduated from the University of Western Sydney with a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) degree on Friday 23rd April.

Michelle is taking up a short-term employment contract prior to embarking on a well deserved overseas holiday.

Susan Peggy Egan – Class of 2003

Kris Scott and Susan were married at the De La Salle Chapel on the 20th March 2010 on a fantastic autumn day of 30 degrees followed by a sparkling reception at the Crowne Plaza Norwest. Norwest lakeside also presented itself as a gorgeous backdrop for sunset bridal party photos.

Kris and Susan met four and a half years ago at the Eastern Conference Games at Tamworth where they came together over a love for sport and a need for food and electricity. Kris was representing the Australian Defence Force Academy in rugby and Susan was there with the Australian College of Physical Education playing Ultimate Frisbee.

Kris is currently working at as an aeronautical engineer at the Royal Australian Air Force Base, Richmond and also playing rugby for the Air Force and Australian Services Team. Since leaving Oakhill Susan has coached rugby, taught and presents annually at the College in her current job as a Drug and Health Educator for Life Education, more commonly known as a Healthy Harold.

They spent their honeymoon at Likuliku Lagoon Resort, Malolo Island, Fiji gorging on seafood, cocktails and home made cookies. There was endless sun, snorkelling and relaxing which was a fantastic close to amazing week. Susan wrote, "Having our wedding at the De La Salle Chapel was so very special and just like coming home. The day was just magical, we couldn't have wished for any more."

Susan is pictured with one of her bridesmaids, Olivia Nicholls, also Class of 2003.



Class of 1979 Reunion

September 13, 2009 saw a gathering of the Class of 1979 in the foyer of the Centenary Sports Centre. They were joined by Brother Ken (Principal) and Brother David Zande. Staff members Kerrie O'Leary, Donna McNulty, Heather Muirhead and Mark Sullivan provided their usual high quality hospitality on the evening.



The Class of 1979.



Chris Slade and Kerry Lennon (nee Tynan).



Linda Mudge addressing the group.



Nick Milham proudly wearing his school tie.

Class of 1999 Reunion

On a balmy evening on the 14th November 2009, the Class of 1999 gathered together in the foyer of the Centenary Sports Centre to celebrate their first reunion. They were joined by Brother Ken (Principal), Brother David (Deputy Principal), Brother Ray (Year 7 Co-ordinator when the group commenced at the College), Brother Bill, Steve Molloy (Bursar), John Reed (ex- Deputy Principal), Keith Murray (Assistant Principal) and teachers Debbie Gillis and Des East (who were both Deans in 1999). As usual, staff members Kerrie O'Leary, Donna McNulty, Heather Muirhead and Mark Sullivan volunteered to look after hospitality on the evening.

Daniel Illic provided some unusual entertainment for the group as he experimented with ideas for a skit on his TV Show, Hungry Beast (ABC). Daniel was kind enough to include the College in the credits on the show.



Luke Hackett and Brother Ken.



Tanya Romeo, Joel Halbert and Frank Romeo.



Brother Ray, Helene Dowson and Jason Guest.



The Class of 1999.

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