From the Principal

Welcome to the third edition of Jimmies Spirit.

We have been delighted with the response from past students to this initiative and look forward to continuing to have this opportunity to connect with our past student community.

I recently attended two Past Student reunions – one for the Class of 1967/69 (the first class to go through to Year 12 at St James) and the other for the Class of 1972. Those present on both these occasions not only enjoyed the camaraderie that comes with reminiscing on times past but also remarked on the many changes that had taken place at the College over the years.

It is always a pleasure to welcome past students back to the College and these two occasions were no exception.

Visitors were particularly interested to hear how the nature of the student cohort has changed, being culturally somewhat different and far more diverse today, yet still having that same Jimmies spirit that never seems to change, epitomised by the custom of touching the crest as students enter the gates each day.

As a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition, St James is committed to fostering justice and solidarity with those around us, with those who are marginalised in our society and in other communities. ‘Immersion’ experiences provide students and staff with the opportunity to work with and walk with others whose lives and circumstances, both cultural and social, demand a compassionate but active response from us all.

During the recent holidays, a group of Year 11 students travelled to Timor L’este for an unforgettable two-week experience, visiting an orphanage and experiencing village life in the mountains outside the capital city Dili.

Staff also have had the opportunity to engage in immersion programs. This year for example, two staff members have participated in immersions to Southern and Eastern Africa respectively while other staff are engaging with Indigenous communities in northern and western NSW and Qld.

All these have provided for us a means to inject back into our own school a deeper understanding of the Charter of Edmund Rice Education Australia and what it means for our school, its traditions and its future aspirations.

Past students may be interested to know that St James continues to make a name for itself in the sporting arena with students excelling particularly in Basketball, Athletics, Netball, Rugby League and Soccer. Students have successfully competed in the QLD Confraternity Shield, EREA National Basketball, Met East Athletics, OISSN Netball and many other local and State competitions.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Jimmies World Cup Soccer competition which continues to be a fiercely contested lunchtime activity throughout Term 3. Br Bill Tynan, who was Principal at St James when the competition commenced, recently addressed the College Assembly with some interesting anecdotes about the competition from its humble beginnings on the ‘tennis court’ where the upper courtyard and the Hall now are situated to the fast and furious indoor version experienced today in the College Hall.

At a College Assembly earlier in the year, we had the pleasure of the company of Alan and Ailsa Metcalf who have had a long association with St James and whom many past students will know from their time here. The Metcafs’ own children attended St James in the 1970s and they themselves have been wonderful supporters of the College.

A program known as The Alan and Ailsa Metcalf Leadership Program was set up through a donation by past student, Bernard Stapleton, both as an expression of gratitude to Alan and Ailsa but also with a view to developing the leadership skills of outstanding students who have the potential to be leaders both at school and when they move out into the community. The College was extremely grateful for Bernard’s contribution and is very excited about this program for our students. An extract of Bernard’s speech which was delivered at the Assembly can be read on Page 7. It is indeed a fitting tribute to Alan and Ailsa and a wonderful acknowledgement of their contribution to St James over many years.

Thank you again to all our Past Students for your continued support of the College.

Should any of you wish to contribute financially to the College, there are two avenues, Contributions can be made to the College Building Fund to assist in continuing to provide excellent facilities for our students. The “St James Lighthouse for Athletes” program provides another opportunity to support our young men and women who are striving for excellence in their particular sport. Money raised through this latter avenue goes towards providing uniforms and travel assistance for students, many of whom come from lower socio-economic and refugee backgrounds.

Further enquiries can be directed to College Business Manager, Richard Occhipinti.

Gerry Crooks
Principal

Coming Events

The Principal, Mr Gerry Crooks invites all past students of Jimmies to attend a Past Students Gathering.

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On Friday 12 October, 2012
in the St James College School Hall, 201 Boundary Street, Brisbane
From 5.30pm to 8.00pm
Entry is $20.00 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 3 October, 2012
Naomi Ritchie – (07) 3839 4977
Naomi.Ritchie@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au
Co-Curricular Activities at St James

With 2012 holding so much promise in co-curricular activities it did not take long before we tasted success. The Junior Rugby League squad won the first piece of silverware for the College in 2012, when they defeated St Francis College in the Plate final of the 9-a-side tournament held in February. It was an amazing achievement in that the St James Year 9 team had seven Year 8 students in the squad and was the smallest team to compete. The boys had two narrow losses only to come back and storm into the Grand Final with two gutsy wins. On their way, they defeated Rugby League School of Excellence and host, Clairvaux Mackillop College 4 tries to 1. It was amazing to watch and we would have to go back more than 30 years to find records of a ‘Jimmies’ team defeating Clairvaux in Rugby League.

The Co-curricular program is not all about winning with participation high on the agenda so this year brought about the inaugural Big Day Out. The first day back from the Easter break saw 25 students and some parents take the opportunity to experience the beauty of Moreton Island. The Big Day Out was a huge success with both staff and students returning with a new found love for the Island and what it offers. The students snorkelled above the manmade reef around the wrecks of Clairvaux in Rugby League. The massive sand hills were also a hit with a view of sea turtles and dolphins from the top well worth the scramble up the 100m incline. It was an awesome day and I hope more members of the community take the opportunity when it is offered again next year.

This is the third year the Indigenous students at St James have had the opportunity to be mentored by basketball legend Leroy Loggins through his federally funded Sporting Chance Program. Leroy and his group of inspirational leaders spend a few hours each week supporting Indigenous students in their quest to fulfill their educational potential. He is a very positive role model to the students and we are extremely lucky to have him working in our community.

Term 2 signalled the start of the Debating season with St James represented in Years 8, 9, 10 and Senior competitions. There were some memorable victories over GPS schools including our Year 9s and 12s win over Brisbane State High.

Over the past few terms we have seen some awesome achievements from this year’s cohort with students gaining selection in Regional, State and National teams. Seven students have been selected for Queensland Futsal squads and here have been increased representation in Regional and State basketball teams. Basketball continues to grow in popularity and this has provided some excellent results with wins over Gregory Terrace, Churchie, State High and Grammar. The Senior Girls Basketball Team has dominated the U18 club competition and will compete at this year’s State and National tournaments. The Senior Boys have had success again at the EREA National Basketball Tournament in Penrith winning the Bronze for the second year in a row. The College also gained the admiration of the basketball community with a 3rd placing at the International 3-on-3 Basketball tournament in Coffs Harbour in June.

The 2012 Confraternity Rugby League and Netball were hosted by St Patrick’s Shorncliffe and Chisholm College, Caloundra, respectively, with the Jimmies teams holding their own against some talented athletes. The Netball team finished 2nd in their pool at the end of a fantastic campaign and the boys played some entertaining footy with their tenacious defense the highlight of the week long carnival.

Last term, after a thrilling victory over Padua College in football it was brought to my attention the need for a school war cry, something that would bring out the school spirit and help celebrate the achievement of our accomplished sporting teams after a victory. I encouraged the College cohort on assembly to come up with a new war cry. Despite having over a dozen entries, they all lacked the impact I believe was true to our tradition.

As a result, after a little investigation and some help from past students Peter Egan and Terry Davidson, I was able to find a St James War Cry that was used up until 1949. I am driven to reignite this traditional war cry as it means so much more than the words and rhymes it portrays. My intention is for every current and future student not only to recognize this war cry, but to know it and be proud of those who have gone before them by reciting it after a victory.

We have had so many memorable victories over the past several years and it is time we let other schools know just how proud we are to be from Jimmies. Faithful Forever.

Andrew Ebrington
Sports Co-ordinator

St James War Cry
Toorah, Toorah, Kar-a wee-kah,
Ackerah, Ackerah, Hyderee-hah,
A tangerie-go, A bangerie-go,
Why-del-a-roh, Kar-a wee-koh.
Maroon and Gold – Maroon and Gold,
St James, St James – Maroon and Gold!
We are the School that’s brave and bold,
St James, St James – Maroon and Gold.

St James College Brisbane Confraternity Carnival.

St James Girls Confraternity Netball Team.

Big Day Out Moreton Island.
College Events

Cultural Night

This yearly event, held in May, once again lived up to expectations with an outstanding array of singing and dancing featuring many students from the broad range of cultural groups and backgrounds at St James. The audience, consisting of nearly 500 parents, students and friends, were treated to the traditional and haunting music and dance of the St James Aboriginal Dancers. A group of staff delighted all with a Bollywood-style presentation and some intricate dohi-drumming from Year 12 student Munraj Singh thus bringing India to St James. Highlights of the concert included a beautiful and graceful series of dances originating from the Pacific Islands, a New Zealand Haka, a very elegant dance from northern Thailand performed by Vimonmat Yutawan of Year 12, hip hop from the Bring It On troupe, students performing Chinese, African and contemporary popular songs and dances from East Africa and Sudan performed by the African girls of the College.

College Open Day

The College Open Day, held on Friday August 3, was a most enjoyable and successful day. Riley Ashton and Tia-Moana Hippolite from Year 8 together with Carl Naude and Codi Durre from Year 12 gave reflections of their time so far at Jimmies. Past student, Vivien Moschino (2011) who is studying Exercise Science at ACU, was warmly welcomed back and gave a reflection of her time at St James as well as talking about her future career path. The many and varied displays, guided tours given by our Year 9 and 11 students, assistance given by Mr James Chan, President of the P&F and Committee members together with the presence of College staff all contributed to extremely positive reports being received back from the many visitors who attended the day. One very special visitor on the day was 97 year-old Bill Thornton who attended St James in 1925 and was accompanied by his son, Christian Brother Br Neville Thornton.

Parents & Friends Federation President’s Dinner

On Monday 23 July, the College hosted the Parents and Friends Federation President’s Dinner in the College Hall. Special guests Archbishop Mark Coleridge, General Peter Cosgrove, Mike Byrne (Executive Director of Qld Catholic Education Commission), David Hutton (Director of Brisbane Catholic Education) and Carmel Nash (President, P&F Federation of Qld) were among the over 200 guests who attended the event. The St James Indigenous Dancers, led by Aunty Thersea Nunn performed the traditional acknowledgement of country at the start of the dinner. Guest speaker for the evening was the patron of this year’s Catholic Education Week, noted Australian, General Peter Cosgrove. General Cosgrove is well known to all Australians for his inspirational leadership of the Australian peacekeeping forces in East Timor some years ago, and also for his coordination of the rebuilding of towns and communities in the aftermath of Cyclone Larry in far north Queensland. A committed Catholic, General Cosgrove is passionate about the importance of community in people’s lives. During his address to guests on the night, he emphasised the significance of family, school and parish as being the basis of what Catholic Education is all about.
FIER Festival

During Term 2 St James hosted a cultural Festival for Indigenous students in Edmund Rice schools (FIER). Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island students from many Edmund Rice schools across Queensland, including our own, engaged in a day of cultural celebration and activities which incorporated dance, music, art and story. Facilitators for the day were Br Jim Darcy and St James Indigenous Support Officer, Aunty Thersa Nunn.

Science Week
(11 - 18 August)

Students at St James College have a natural exuberance but on Monday there was excitement in the air. Students knew there was something special in store for them. Some were looking forward to the experiments with liquid nitrogen. Just exactly how many blown up balloons will fit into an esky? Others wanted to see the levitating metal. Some just had fun with the cornflour and water goo. Deng Mayot made the quote of the day when he said, “I am so confused. Is it a liquid that feels like a solid”. If success is measured by interest then the students standing on desks trying to look into the science laboratory from other classrooms proves that everyone can enjoy science.

Jan Finch
Senior Chemistry Teacher

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
Naomi.Ritchie@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

- Title & Surname
- Surname at School
- Given Names
- Telephone
- New Address
- Previous Address
- Email
- Last year at St James & Year Level
- 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.

East Timor Immersion

Melissa Tabulo, Brooke Agnew, Chloe Edwards.

Chloe Edwards

Jonty Morris-Howes & Mrs Di Riddle with East Timorese girl.
Outdoor Recreation & Health

A quote from an unknown source states “Never tell me the sky’s the limit when there are footprints on the moon.” This statement epitomises the attitude and activities of the Outdoor Recreation and Health staff and students this year. 2012 has been an enjoyable and exciting year for the ORH department with many fantastic endeavours taking place.

Camps are an integral part of SJC, giving students an unforgettable experience outside of the classroom. This year we conquered Mt. Barney, Girraween and saw a return of camps to Jimmies on the Dam. The ORH Department is very excited to be returning to this wonderful setting, the site of such history and adventure. If any past student has any old photos, memories of camps at Jimmies on the Dam the ORH Department would be keen to hear from you as we try to recreate the magic of these camps for future students.

2011 was the debut year of the Certificate II in Sport Coaching (focusing on basketball). This has allowed students to become Community Level Referees, work with the Australian Sports Commission in the Australian Governments Active After-school Communities Program and forge links with Fortitude Valley Police-Citizens Youth Club together with St. Joseph’s Primary School at Kangaroo Point.

For both of the Vocational Educational Training (VET) Courses offered by the ORH Department (Certificate II Outdoor Recreation and Certificate II Sport Coaching) students need to undertake a range of class-based tasks that simulate the working environment. Theory classes, practical activities, excursions, guest speakers and work experience are organised for students. Students must demonstrate an ability to perform the unit of competency as a whole within an integrated assessment process. Employability Skills form part of the delivery process and students are provided with an opportunity to acquire and practise these skills in a real life environment.

As you can imagine it is very difficult to provide a “Real Life” working environment inside a school setting, so the ORH Department is always on the lookout for opportunities to provide links with industries in these two areas. The ORH Department is very keen to hear from past students or members of the community who, through their workplaces, may be able to offer such experiences for our students. Hopefully the opportunities provided by these courses will allow students a career pathway for the future.

The ORH Department looks forward to the challenges ahead in 2012 and remember: “Winning means you’re willing to go longer, work harder, and give more than anyone else.” - Vince Lombardi.

James Anderson
Head of Department – Outdoor Recreation & Health
Where are they now?

Anthony Rosenberg

Last year at St James & Year Level – 1983, Year 10 (I think), I am a Legal and Financial Translator and University Professor with languages spoken Portuguese, English and Spanish. I enjoy music, golf and gardening. The last seven years has seen me backpacking and traveling the world during which time I married a Brazilian studying Language Arts and Education.

Jonathan Pakchung (2010 – 2011)

Jonathan continues to achieve some great results in Weight lifting. He was awarded best junior lifter at the State titles in Toowoomba recently. He lifted a 5kg personal best of 130kg and was awarded a special award trophy to go with his best lifter trophy.

Jonathan is currently training with an Olympic coach and is only 4kg off international tournaments.

Jacqueline Parker (nee Curry)

I graduated from St James in Year 12 2007. I have two children and enjoy being at home to look after my family.


I finished grade 12 in 1974, which was my last year at St James. I was at St James for five years, starting at grade 8. My tertiary studies were completed at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, where I received degrees in Design Studies (1977) and Architecture (1980). I became a registered architect in Queensland in 1982 and in NSW in 1986. I have been in Private Practice for over 25 years in the same firm, Ceccato Hall + Associates, which I founded in 1986.

Mark Burke - 1970 (Junior Yr 10)

I live on Bribie Island and have my own earthmoving business. I spend quite a bit of time in Darwin visiting my son and daughter who live there.

Commodore Mark Elwyn Watson, CSC, RAN

Commodore Mark Watson completed his matriculation at Saint James’ Christian Brothers College in Brisbane in 1972 and joined the Royal Australian Naval College in 1973 as a Supply Officer. Following undergraduate university studies, he undertook sea training in a number of destroyers which deployed throughout South-East Asia and the Pacific and, on completion, he gained a Limited Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate.

In 2001-2002, he was J1/J4 (Chief Staff Officer Personnel & Logistics) at Headquarters Australian Theatre in Sydney and in 2003-2004, he was Chief Staff Officer to the Chief of Navy in Navy Headquarters.

Commodore Watson was appointed as Director General Career Management Policy in January 2005 and as Director General Executive - Personnel Executive in June 2006. Commodore Watson's qualifications include: A BA with a double major in French, a Diplôme supérieur de français des affaires (Diploma in French Commercial Management), a Graduate Diploma of Strategic Studies and a MBA, a graduate (and former Syndicate Director) of the RAN Staff College, the École Supérieure de Guerre Interarmées (French War College) and the Australian Defence College.

Peter Blanchard (1966 – 1973)

I attended Jimmies from 1966-1973 finishing as a Prefect and completing Senior in 1973. Upon leaving Jimmies I attended University of Old for two years before completing a BA (Hons) in history and economics at ANU. I am currently retired and back at university completing a Masters in International Relations at Macquarie University. I have 30 years’ experience in international trade policy advising governments and managing companies involved in international trade and transport. I was one of the earliest people involved in electronic commerce in Australia (1986) and continue to advise governments and business on various aspects of this technology.

I was moved by the tributes to Kevin Elford in the 2nd edition. I was one of the fortunate who had Kevin as a teacher in 1967 before having him for Tech Drawing in years 8-10. Prior to my 1970 school camp Kevin was an “old school” teacher. That camp under the leadership of Br Langan and including Kevin and other teachers marked a turning point. Kevin became a changed teacher and person and became a more involved person with his students. Upon hearing about his death, I wrote to Mario Patane and shared some memories of Kevin. “I shall always remember Kevin and how he taught the valuable things of life. I shall forever remember that lyrical, powerful and rich voice and the emergence of a “new” Kevin in years 11 and 12. I was quite moved by his death and have always remembered him with great fondness.

Senior Class of 1979 Joint 50th Birthday Party

21 members of the 1979 Senior Class gathered at the Doomben Races on Saturday, March 24th to celebrate their 50th birthdays. Former Jimmies teacher Mario Patane also came along to share the reminiscences and laughter of our years together at Jimmies in the late 1970’s. A great day was had by all!

Front (L to R): Mike Comerford, Joe Boscaio, Dave Alcock, Tony Ramsden.
Middle: Tarcisio Cossettini, Brad Tubb, Mario Patane, Steve Bowling, Jeff Attewell, Maurizio Paolucci, Brendan Gowdie, Robert Brumm.
Back: Damien Quinn, Terry Keir, John Consiglio, Dan Barber, Peter Egan, Mark Jackson-Knaggs, Paul Chant, Tony Torrisi, Deni Mauro, Adrian Petrucci.au, Adrian Petrucci.
He seemed to become more of a learned friend than a teacher. Perhaps we all evolved around that time."

Unfortunately I do not often return to my home city. However, I hope that will change in the near future and I would welcome the opportunity to renew my acquaintance with Jimmies.

**Peter Gall (1964 – 1969)**

I attended St James from 1964 to 1969 which in those days was year 10. My reason for leaving was based solely on the wisdom of my father who was a teacher in the public service. His words still resonate in my ears ‘get a public service job son, it’s a job for life’. It was a job, but not for life. I went on to become a State Manager of two companies, a General Manager of one and a Chief Executive Officer of one. It wasn’t until late in my forties that I started to think about doing any further study. Over the next ten years I completed a Bachelors, Masters and PhD all part time and irony of irony I am now a teacher in the School of Management at Notre Dame University in Perth.

The Brother I remember most is Brother Ansell who we all affectionately referred to as Lurch (from the Addams Family for his height and booming voice).


I attended St James from Grade 8 (1974) to Grade 12 (1978). I was Assistant Editor of the school newspaper in my Senior year at St James. My best friend at school is still my best friend today, more than 38 years later. My brother Tony also attended St James before me.

I worked in a variety of jobs for many years before commencing employment with Queensland Health in 1996. I am currently Principal Management Accounting Officer (Assets) for Information Division, Qld Health in the Valley, just down the road from the old school.

I play squash socially once a week & try to ride my bicycle every weekend. I enjoy art and music as well as driving my V8. I have been to two or three past students’ gatherings and look forward to getting along to another one soon.

**Has a St James College Past Student ever represented Australia at the Olympic Games?**

**Yes!**

Ken Meredith (SJ Senior 1980) represented Australia at the 1988 Seoul Olympics in Gymnastics. Ken was the first Australian to reach Level 10 in Gymnastics and was also the first Australian to win a medal in International Competition in that sport.

He attended St James from grades 5 to 12, graduating in 1980. He went straight to the newly opened Australian Institute of Sport after leaving school to further his career as a Gymnast.

While a student at St James, Ken used to train for Gymnastics at the YMCA gym in Anne St for 5 hours a day. He was also involved in Rugby League, Cricket and Athletics while at school.

Ken Meredith has been involved in Gymnastics coaching since his retirement from competition. He has been a St James College Past Student for many years before commencing employment with Queensland Health in 1996.

**Allan & Ailsa Metcalf Leadership Program**

The following is an extract of the address given by past student Bernard Stapleton to the St James students at the College Assembly on the occasion of the launch of the Allan and Ailsa Metcalf Leadership Program:

"Today I want to discuss three important issues: Firstly, the concept of leadership in the community; secondly, the role the school culture plays in developing leadership potential; and thirdly, the role that Allan and Ailsa Metcalf played in shaping the social responsibility and community leadership potential of countless St James students through their generosity of spirit and their selfless acts of kindness.

Nelson Mandela, in his autobiography ‘A Long Road to Freedom’ stated that in life, every person has twin obligations: obligations to their family, to their parents, to their partners and children; and they have an obligation to their people, their community and their country, and that each of us must fulfil these obligations according to their inclinations and abilities.

I believe that today we all have a role to play within our community and as leaders. In schools, as in every successful firm and organisation every individual has the ability to make a difference to the outcome; every individual has the imagination to make the vision achievable; and every individual has the courage to make hope possible.

As students, teachers and parents we know that a worthwhile school culture is not borne of being intellectually elitist, religiously dogmatic, socially boorish, politically correct or culturally snobbish. Rather, a school culture that develops the leadership potential of each of its students is borne of a set of values and beliefs which include honesty, integrity and hard work; a sense of equity, fairness and friendship; and a belief in social justice and humanity.

St James has always had a tradition of an open door policy to encourage the education advancement and personal potential of all its students regardless of their economic, social, religious or cultural background. This tradition is still at the core of the school’s culture today.

Allan and Ailsa Metcalf also helped shape this culture. They were very active in the life of the school in the 1960s and 1970s. Allan’s energy in running numerous school activities including the tuckshop and the fete was legendary. Her enthusiastic smile was always welcoming to the hundreds of students she served daily in the tuckshop. Allan’s quiet determination and generosity helped coach St James football teams to a number of victories. He believed that, regardless of ability, size or speed, every team member could play a role in helping the team achieve their best effort and result. (Allan himself was a student of St James back in 1933)

Allan and Ailsa’s generosity of spirit and selfless acts of kindness became an integral part of the learning that countless St James students took away from this great school.
Notices

Reunions
Class of 1967/1969
Thirty three past students attended the Year 10 (1967) / Year 12 (1969) reunion on Friday 27 July 2012. Some travelled from places like Bundaberg, Sydney, and Melbourne and one from as far away as - Seoul, Korea. Fourteen of these now 60 year olds commenced at St James in Year 4 (1961).

The Year 12’s of 1969 were the first Year 12 students to graduate from St James. The gathering of past students was warmly welcomed by Principal Gerry Crooks and his Assistant Naomi Ritchie in the College Library from 5:00pm. After a lot of back slapping, hand shaking and storytelling, the old-boys were taken on a tour of the school. The highlights of the tour were the visits to the Year 4 classroom, now the St James Room which is lined with photographs of students long gone and to the ‘new building’, not so new now having been completed in 1967. Long gone too are the tennis courts and the Brothers’ residence. Everyone was pleased to see the wealth of opportunities on hand now for students in 2012, especially the commercial kitchen.

Memories came flooding back for those who started in Year 4 as they walked up the steps to the Year 4 classroom and for everyone as they walked up the steps to the ‘new building’.

After a couple of hours reminiscing at the school, the group headed off to a private function room at a nearby hotel where the celebrations continued well into the night. Many present look forward to continuing the festivities and learning more about each other at the ‘St James Past Student Gathering’ which will be held on Friday 12 October, 2012, commencing at 6:00 pm in the St James College Hall.

Many thanks to Gerry and Naomi for their hospitality on the evening of the 27th!

Regards

From all 1967/1969 Past Students

Class of 1972 – 40 Year Reunion
Firstly, thanks to College Principal, Gerry Crooks and his Assistant, Naomi Ritchie for arranging the visit to Jimmies and sharing School programs and goals. Thirty-five Jimmies Old Boys gathered at 10am on Saturday 11 August. What do you expect? Well after the initial shocks of face and shape recognition, we were able to instantly resume relationships, most of which had been severed for 40 years.

It is a fact that there was never any animosity within the group, so our separate lifetimes were no barrier to renewing friendship. Three of our mates have passed. Three could not be traced. Some could not attend. During a brief address given by each person, it is striking how all the young men we were, are now strong mature human beings. (Was there ever a doubt?). Neil McMahon, Ray Di Marco and Nello Raciti expressed gratitude to Jimmies as a place of very good reputation which set up this group and all its students to cope with life. Tough was also a word used by some to describe our life at Jimmies during the 60’s and early 70’s.

Thanks to all who attended. You are a great group, who have weathered all aspects of life. Births, deaths of partners, children and parents; divorce; separation; desperation; love, sickness; over work; drug addiction; happiness; caring for disabled family; business adventures and pain; success; hope. You name it, it has happened and it continues. But we come through, mostly smiling, and are still people we like to be around.

After the Jimmies visit, the Breakfast Creek Hotel was the venue for good food, exceptional refreshment, only surpassed by the company and storytelling. Alan Metcalf (90 year old father of Mick) attended Breakfast Greek. Alan was a volunteer football coach at Jimmies who, together with teachers, older students and many others, was an inspiration to us. Those attending were from all east coast states. Thanks to all for finding each other and especially Andy Puzniak and Pat Flanagan for their help. Thanks again to Gerry and Naomi for arranging the tour of Jimmies, gift mementoes and morning tea. You are doing the job which gives successive groups of young people the chance to become successful old men and women, like us.

Best wishes to all, especially those who love us and those enduring health issues.

Steve Bridges

Deaths
Brother Dan Courtney cfc (July 2012)
Br Dan Courtney, who established the Christian Brothers’ ministry in East Timor in the late 1990s passed away on July 8 after being in a coma for 11 years. Br Dan lived at the Brothers house at St James and did prison ministry in 1979 – 1980. He went on to become a member of the Christian Brothers’ Leadership Team of the former St Francis Xavier Province. As the founder of the Brothers’ Ministry in East Timor he was greatly loved and respected by the people there.

Mr Noel Morgan (July 2012)
Noel Morgan was the Rotary host father of K’Chin (College Captain 2011) who was brought to Australia from Vietnam for surgery by ROMAC as a young boy. Noel together with his wife, Elaine, strongly supported the College during K’Chin’s three years at St James. Noel was a kind and selfless man and all within the St James Community were privileged to know him.

Mr Colin Keenan (September 2011)
Mr John Skinner (March 2011)
Mr Garry Pascoe (February 2009)