

Foundation news

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DR BERNIE CRIMMINS OAM
Director and Chairperson
MBBS Grad Dip HNutr MPH (Nutrition),
(Alumnus 1974)



MAUREEN HEGARTY
Executive Director
BAppSci, BA (Hons)



JOHN HICKEY
Director and College Principal
BEd, DipTeach, DipRE,
GradCertRE, MEdL



BR JOHN MCMAHON FMS
Director
BSc (Hons) BTheol MEd PhD
(Alumnus 1963)



JULIE RYAN
Director
BachelorComm, DipEd, GradDipRE,
M.Ed, FACEL(Vic), Regional Director,
Marist Schools Australia,



PAUL BURNS
Director
LLB BJuris (Alumnus 1981)

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or via email foundation@marcellin.vic.edu.au

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Your feedback is welcome foundation@marcellin.vic.edu.au
160 Bulleen Road Bulleen VIC 3105

Editorial Team: Lisa Gillies, Prue O'Shannessy, Maureen Hegarty,
Br John McMahon, Br Peter Howes, John Bartley and Brian Millane.
Design & Layout: Paula Lay Design

Listen to all our audio interviews at www.soundcloud.com/marcellinfoundation



MARCELLIN FOUNDATION

ABN 74 857 223 525
160 Bulleen Road Bulleen VIC 3105 Australia
t +61 3 9851 1464
e foundation@marcellin.vic.edu.au
www.marcellinfoundation.org.au



MARIST ASSOCIATION

1 Dawson Street Brunswick VIC 3056 Australia
t +61 3 9389 3100
e marist.association@marists.org.au

WELCOME

This edition of the Foundation News sees our focus on building & construction and policing - areas in which many Marcellin alumni work. Damian Love, Class of 1986, now the director of his own building company, *Balwyn Building*, shares his memories of Marcellin College as a young student. How the campuses of Canterbury Road and Bulleen influenced his time as a student.

DAMIAN LOVE

(Alumnus 1986)

Upon starting at Marcellin College in 1979 in grade 5, the thing I recall most vividly about the junior school in Camberwell was the amount of students and the facilities we had at our disposal.

I'd come from a much smaller primary school All Hallows in Balwyn. I knew a couple of the other kids in my year level, but it was all a very new experience

I attended both the Camberwell and the Bulleen Campuses. The differences could not have been more stark. Canterbury Road had not a single blade of grass. Who could forget getting to school early so that kids could bowl a cricket ball at you at full pelt and then trying to aim at the gutter in the yard so that the ball would skip up and take you out? Or trying to mark a football on bitumen with ten kids trying to take you out with every kick? It didn't hurt us and made us a bit more resilient.

Bulleen felt like it was huge and, with great ovals, basketball courts, and tennis courts, it felt like every young man's dream. Once again we were the small fish in a large pond. We soon settled in and it felt like home. The foresight of the brothers back in those days to create a new campus at Bulleen and grow the intake of students cannot be overstated.

Throughout my time at Marcellin I got involved in the usual sports: football, basketball, cricket and tennis. Most Saturday mornings saw mum and dad running me to some sort of event or the bus trips to Assumption. I have great memories of Mr Schlitz trying to get us warmed up for footy in the depth of Melbourne winter with frost on the ovals. No such thing as the latest 2XU or skins to wear, just a dodgy old itchy woollen jumper and the maroon shorts.

Some of the electives we were able to do probably helped shape my career and life choices. Woodwork with Mr Nicholson was obviously an important thing for me with my career path but also outdoor education and 'Man in Flight' were amazing. Getting the chance to fly a plane at Moorabbin Airport and go out to Tullamarine Airport and do a tour of the control tower were highlights and the



Damian with his family

campus with Mr Toce, learning the outdoor skills that came in handy later on my three trips to Antarctica, were also unforgettable.

Much in Marcellin's 70 year history has been made of Old Collegians' successes in elite sport. Don't get me wrong - I enjoy my footy and cricket as much as the next person. However what is pleasing to see is that with the Foundation now connecting with more Marcellin Alumni, Old Collegians' journeys and triumphs after leaving school are being highlighted in many areas for all of the community to see. For example Leo Price and his efforts in Darwin post the Bali bombing, led to him receiving a much-deserved OAM. Sadly Leo passed away in 2005 but his family is still very heavily involved in the school and the local community.

I continue to feel a strong connection to Marcellin College. These days I'm busy with my business, and have been occupied for much of this year trying to run a construction business during unprecedented times, and home-school two daughters. Because of the COVID lockdown, my ties to my old school

feel more important than ever. Every year I attend the Marcellin Old Collegians' Memorial Mass, organised by Mary Norden, which celebrates the lives of those who are no longer with us. I'm involved in the Marcellin Business Network, and I return to speak to the boys about what a career looks like in the building sector and running your own business. I still catch up with many old students on a regular basis and have watched as their lives and businesses have evolved over the years. I get down and support the MOCCC when I can and enjoy the connections I've made through being involved there. I have managed to be there for the last seven seasons to watch John Dinneen play his last game in the Firsts and hope to see many more.

Like all of us, I look forward to when we can all gather as a community to support and connect with each other and keep the tradition of the school going. In the meantime I hope you enjoy this edition of the Foundation News!

“

I continue to feel a strong connection to Marcellin College. These days I'm busy with my business, and have been occupied for much of this year trying to run a construction business in unprecedented times, and home-school two daughters. Because of the COVID lockdown, my ties to my old school feel more important than ever.

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THE AGE OF PROFESSORS - BY RICHARD OLIVE

At first glance the image from the 1962 Ad Altissima, “Prefects” seems unremarkable enough.

Thoroughly regimented, as was the norm for the day, shoes polished, fists clenched, smiles on command, prefect badges on display; Brother Sylvester, Lord and Master of Marcellin in that era, sits proudly with his chosen 12 disciples.

Sylvester will forever remain a towering figure in the history of Marcellin, because it was he who oversaw the purchase of the Bulleen property, the construction of the first classrooms there, and the start of the long migration from Camberwell.

As the photo indicates, he was short in stature, but large in presence. He made his mission to lift the status of the College in public consciousness. A first symbolic move was to take Marcellin from the Associated Catholic Colleges to the more prestigious Associated Grammar Schools, an unprecedented step in those sectarian days. His predecessor, Br Ludovic, had overseen Marcellin’s meteoric rise to the top echelons of the Victorian academic standings during the mid to late 50s. Sylvester built upon that foundation. No better evidence could be found than this photo of the 1962 prefects.

For those younger readers befuddled by the word “prefects” think of the various ‘captains’ of today.

No fewer than six of the 12 went on to achieve doctorates, teaching roles and professorships at major Australian academic institutions.

At the top left we find Charles Zika. After a period with the Franciscans, Charles studied history at the University of Melbourne, followed by postgraduate study in Germany. His interests expanded to include the visual arts and he enjoyed the role of Senior Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. Fellowships and teaching roles continued in Gottingen, Nuremburg, Vienna and Prague. He rose within the History Department of the University of Melbourne to become Professor and Head of the History Department. In the meantime he continued to indulge his love of art by engagement in significant exhibitions at the NGV.

Moving across the back row, we find John O’Hara, standing lankily above the others.



FRONT ROW: D. J. Hegarty, D. M. Hanan, K. J. Bell, Rev. Bro. Sylvester, J. D. Hanan, P. J. Walker, M. A. Hull.
BACK ROW: C. F. Zika, G. D. Miller, J. B. O’Hara, M. F. McNamara, J. R. McMahon, P. J. Dunn. Absent: G. A. Mitchell.

MARCELLIN COLLEGE ANNUAL

Sadly, John recently passed away after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease. He is remembered by his contemporaries as a devout and thoughtful boy, an outstanding student with mastery of the written and spoken word. Like Charles he spent time with the Franciscans before moving on to the University of Melbourne where he gained first class honours for his BA. He became well-known on Melbourne radio (ABC, 3AW, 3RRR), before moving on to teach Arts and Media Studies at RMIT and then Director of the Australian Film and Television School. Subsequent appointments as Professor, first at Charles Sturt University then at the Dubai Women’s College, focussed on public relations, advertising and broadcast journalism.

Skipping along we find John McMahon, who needs no introduction to a Marcellin audience, because he was to follow Br Sylvester into the Marist Brothers and to be Principal of this college. After formation with the Marists, John gained degrees in Science and Education at Monash and went on to complete his PhD in Education from the University of London. He returned to Australia to be Principal of Sacred Heart College in Adelaide, where he introduced co-ed boarding, before coming full circle back to Marcellin. John now serves as National Director of Marist Tertiary Programs.

Now, focussing on the front row, we find David Hanan - another humanities specialist. After completing an MA in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Melbourne, he enrolled in a postgraduate film course at University College London, and subsequently pioneered the Film Studies program at Monash

University, being head of this new section from 1978 to 1994. David’s PhD is based on his book, Cultural Specificity in Indonesian Film published by Palgrave. He currently lives with his Indonesian wife and daughter on Bali.

Kevin Bell was dux, college captain and athletics champion in 1962. At school he followed the science subjects and went on to study Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne. He and his wife, Jo, took five years out to serve as Catholic lay missionaries in South Korea before returning home. Kevin completed his PhD in the productivity of sheep flocks, and was later appointed Professor of Vet Science at Murdoch University in Perth. They now spend their retirement in Broome.

John Hanan is David’s twin brother. He obtained a BA First Class Honours degree in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne in 1966 and tutored for a time in philosophy courses at both Melbourne and Monash Universities, including, as late as 1999, tutoring in a course on “The Philosophy of Buddhism” at the University of Melbourne. He has also worked as a private scholar.

Remarkably, these six were not alone in the Sylvester era. They were preceded in 1961 by Richard O’Sullivan, Professor of Nuclear Physics at RMIT, and followed by Barry Fraser, Professor of Science Education at Curtin University in WA, Andrew Remenyi, psychology lecturer at Latrobe and his younger brother Joseph Remenyi, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Deakin University.

VCAL AT MARCELLIN

Students at Marcellin are very fortunate that the College, alongside the traditional VCE program, offers VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and VET (Vocational Education Training) in the senior pathway. In fact Marcellin has large numbers of students participating in a VET study with near 160 students doing a subject. Some VET subjects may be done externally with the students spending half a day off site studying a wide range of subjects such as Engineering, Electrotechnology, Hospitality and Horticulture just to name a few. Sport and Recreation or Building Construction are also offered on campus. Students who are doing VCE or VCAL may study a VET subject; and this expands their opportunities and provides a more 'hands on' and practical experience.



Marcellin College has about 25 VCAL students this year. They are offered Intermediate at Year 11 and then Senior in Year 12.

The philosophy behind VCAL is that this learning looks after the whole person, allowing every student to have success. Not every young man learns in the same way and, given that Marcellin is not a select entry school, the College needs to accommodate many different personalities and abilities. VCAL ensures that every boy has the opportunity to achieve.

On completion of a VCAL unit, the student will be assessed as competent/not yet competent. They need to meet outcomes, comply with and follow a process to complete the required applied learning outcome.

Most students who follow the VCAL pathway, when they finish school, choose either to study at a TAFE, find an apprenticeship or gain employment. Most of these boys are not interested in attending University and quickly achieve self-worth and success with this program. Many of these boys get a head start on their peers by being able to start apprenticeships two years before completing their schooling.



Interestingly, experiencing Covid-19 and the effects that has brought about has meant that the boys doing VCAL have an even greater appreciation of the opportunities it affords them.

MAX MAWBY



Hi my name is Max Mawby. The main reason I chose VCAL was because it offered hands on learning, building my skills and experience that I would use after I left school. VCAL has allowed me not just to sit in the classroom and listen to the teacher talk all lesson but has given me the chance to do work that I enjoy and that is related to my future career. One of my favourite things about VCAL is the opportunity to see the end result of all your hard work not just displayed as a percentage on a piece of paper but something you can be proud of and use to help you with your future jobs. Don't let the stigma of VCAL pull you away from the opportunity, VCAL is based for you to gain skills and experiences. It is not designed for you to slack off and take it easy. As my father always says to me "the more you



put in, the more you will get out" and I truly believe this is what VCAL stands for and is the reason I chose to do it.

“

Many of these boys get a head start on their peers by being able to start apprenticeships two years before completing their schooling.

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STRIVE

HIGH ACHIEVERS - RICHARD FRISINA AND STEVE THEISZ

KANE CONSTRUCTION

Richard Frisina and Stephen Theisz trace their personal friendship and professional association back to their alma mater where the Marcellin Old Boy networks nourished friendships and created an enduring culture of success. They currently serve as Board Directors (Richard is the Joint Managing Director), of the multi award winning construction company, Kane Constructions. With a turnover in excess of \$1 billion and over 450 full time employees, Kane is an industry leader in the commercial building sector.

projects for over forty years, Kane was approached to undertake urgent expansion of the Peter MacCallum Hospital to accommodate an anticipated surge in hospital and ICU admissions.

In just six weeks, with 180 people working around the clock, the work was completed.

So who is Kane Constructions?

Kane Constructions began in Melbourne in 1973. Working from an office located above an antiques shop in High Street, Armadale, initial projects included a number of Catholic Primary Schools and some projects for local councils.

Fast forward to 2020 and the progress of this company from its humble beginnings has been consistently impressive. Building and refurbishment projects in Education (University of Melbourne, Monash University), the Arts (West Gippsland Arts Centre, Royal Exhibition Building, Dandenong Performing Arts Centre), Health (Alfred Hospital, Geelong Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Cabrini Hospital), Tourism (Australian Grand Prix, RACV Cape Schanck Resort), and Government (Department of Treasury & Finance, State Emergency Services, Defence) have led to these sectors becoming specialties of Kane. And this list is not exhaustive.

So what have been the hallmarks of a start-up company growing from a small team to one of over 450 fulltime employees? Where some other companies in construction have succumbed to the vicissitudes of market downturns (the early 1990s recession, the 2008 GFC and COVID-19) why has Kane gone from strength to strength?

The secret may well lie in the culture alive and well at Kane.

“The way you go about it is important to us”, says Richard Frisina, referring to how processes are handled within the company as well as towards clients. “We pride ourselves on the journey of project conception to completion and our people always aim to work like this with our clients.”

It’s not a stretch to see the Marist links which underpin the ethos of this company. Both Stephen and Richard enjoyed their time at Marcellin College and now demonstrate a leadership style which would make their teachers proud. “Seeing problems in advance and regularly consulting with our clients can not only help to avoid cost blow-outs but also build trusting relationships throughout a project. Building is challenging but it’s how you take the journey with your client that leads to successful outcomes.”

“
It’s not a stretch to see the Marist links which underpin the ethos of this company
”



Steve and Richard

When COVID reached Australian shores in March this year it wasn’t long before government health officials recognised the need to boost hospital infrastructure.

Australia’s health system had a National Plan for Pandemics which included modelling possible scenarios of COVID-19 spreading through the Australian population.

Initial modelling of an uncontrolled outbreak (with no implementation of isolation or quarantine measures) showed peak daily Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed demand would be 35,000, greatly exceeding Australia’s expanded capacity of 7,000 ICU beds. With isolation and quarantine, demand would be reduced to 17,000 ICU beds at its peak. This would still be above expanded capacity.

As we saw overseas, an uncontrolled pandemic was able to quickly overwhelm health systems. International experience and National Cabinet modelling showed ICU’s were the most vulnerable part of our health system.

Enter Kane Constructions. Having been involved in state government building



Steve above and Richard below



On the topic of successful outcomes, Kane has received many awards over the years. Standouts include National Master Builder of the Year 2016 and 2019, Victorian Master Builder of the Year for the last four years, and there are many more.

Richard recalls “What I quickly realised after joining the company is that it is about culture, teamwork and relationships, and that networks accelerate relationships and develop trust. Both Stephen and I were playing footy at Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club at 25 and we’d speak about the game. The Club for us was about being friends”.

The friendship was apparent, especially when Stephen, who has now been at Kane for 23 years, spoke with Richard who was at John Holland, but looking for a change. “At Kane we have a healthy level of autonomy, we promote internal succession and every voice is heard around the table. It’s rare that we pull rank. There’s an open-door policy that encourages discussion”

For those of us within the Marcellin community are no strangers to round table discussions.

Steve and Richard



The First Kane Office in 1973 - operating above an antique store in High Street Armadale



The famously preserved table at La Valla, France, which was used for many years by St Marcellin Champagnat and his followers, is a symbol of how the brothers lived like a family; sharing bread, joys, sadness, and dreams in many conversations.

For these Old Collegians their business's strong balance sheet indicates "we've delivered on our promises by finishing jobs with high quality and we've never walked away". Richard and Stephen's management experience has been sought by the Marcellin Old Collegians

Football Club as the Club works to gets its finances and internal processes in order for season 2021. Next year marks several milestone anniversaries for the Marcellin Football faithful. Firstly there is the 50th anniversary of the Club's first premiership in 1971 followed by the 20 year anniversary of the Club's 2001 Grand Final A-Grade premiership win. Stephen and Richard played together for Marcellin in this epic grand final.

As they enter the next phase in their lives as Old Collegian parents to young children, Richard and Stephen's retrospective analysis of their time up until now at Kane highlights the Marist qualities of being visionary, courageous, aspirational and respectful. This is epitomised in their movement up the ranks to the Boardroom. "Kane Constructions is one of the great succession planning stories in the business. It commenced in 2010, concluded in 2018, and now sees 6 directors, all of us in our 40s, sitting on the Board

and guiding the direction of the company". Richard and Stephen's combined story is one for the annals of Marcellin Old Collegians, with virtue and courage, striving for the highest.



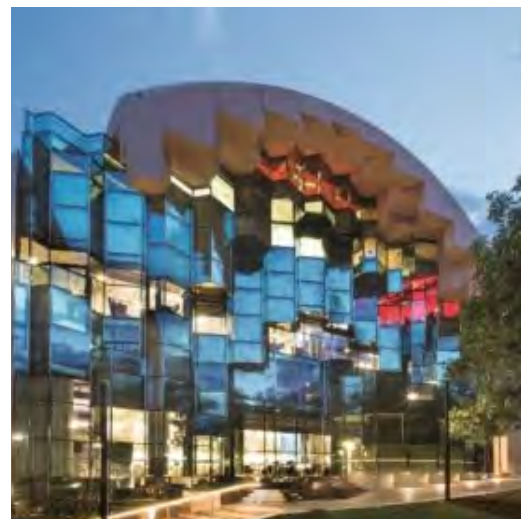
The famously preserved table at La Valla... is a symbol of how the brothers lived like a family.



The La Valla table built by St. Marcellin



RACV Cape Schank Resort - A Kane project



Geelong Library & Heritage Center - A Kane project

MARCELLIN POLICE OFFICERS

JACK BLAYNEY

(Alumnus 1973)

Victorian Assistant Police Commissioner 2011-2019 APM (Australian Police Medal) 2012

When you look at Jack's incredible career spanning over four decades along with his long list of achievements, it's hard to believe that he wasn't the academic type back in the day.

Jack came to Marcellin College Bulleen in 1972 from another Marist School, Saint John's Hawthorn to commence Year 11. The transition from a class of about 40 students with an entire teaching staff of Brothers, to that of hundreds of boys with a predominance of lay teachers was a big change for Jack. He very soon got used to the new routine and the greater expectation to be more self-managed.

He fondly remembers Brother Romulus, a Maths teacher, and Brother Jerome who taught Physics. Brother Jerome made a real effort to make a connection with the boys on their level (connecting with teenage boys can be difficult enough for the best of us). Jack remembers, "one day Brother Jerome decided to introduce music to our Physics class. We all listened to Stairway to Heaven and our class work for this lesson was to analyse the lyrics. I don't think Brother Jerome had any idea what the song was about, although he did seem to think that it had some religious connotations given that it had the word 'heaven' in it. We all just played along with him as it was by far a better option than Physics!"

Tim Poynton also came across to Marcellin from Saint John's in Year 11 and Jack remains friends with him today. Marcellin introduced him to new friends in Chris Spillane, Peter Spain, Ferdie Vigano, Michael Cahill, Daryl Johnson, Rob Stewart and Joe Boffa. Jack says, "if there is a legacy from my days at Marcellin it is the enduring friendships that I still hold close today."

Rob Stewart remembers, "I got to know Jack at Marcellin and we are still good mates today. After finishing school, we quickly moved on to sharing several houses together, our first was at 44 First Avenue Kew, but commonly known to everyone as '44'. Every Friday night there was a 'party at 44'. The parties at 44 are long gone, but today, we still catch up when we can, and our families enjoy our annual holiday at Corowa together."



Leaving Marcellin at the completion of Year 12 in 1973 brought feelings of indolence and uncertainty about his prospects. It took a lot of

reflection and a good push in the proverbial from his Mum for Jack to make the decision to join the Police Force. Rob Stewart remembers "Jack had two failed attempts in being accepted into the Force as he was too skinny". Jack's Dad was a well-known butcher in the area back then and started to fatten Jack up on tripe (aarrggghhh). As disgusting as it sounds, it was just what the doctor ordered, as Jack was accepted, third time lucky" says Rob.



Jack (centre) at his graduation

As a new constable in 1975, Jack settled in to his first posting at Flemington. He knew he had made the right career choice in becoming a Police Officer and it didn't take long for him to learn the dangers that police face, even just undertaking routine tasks. Any callouts to the high-rise Housing Commission flats soon had him in the habit of always looking up. It was not uncommon for televisions or appliances to come flying from the balconies above.

Jack was moved to Doncaster in 1977, which was a far cry from Flemington. He remained there for three years gaining much on-the-job learning, and maturity that can only come with life experience. This time and a new perspective on life presented Jack with options that he just did not even consider in earlier years, and he decided to undertake an Undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice Administration (completing his studies in 1985). It was also around this time he decided to apply for, and was promoted to Detective.

Armed with his promotion to Detective, Heidelberg CIB was his next stop from 1981 to 1983 seeing him work his way into the Drug Squad. These were the formative years of this unit, expanding around the increasing use of heroin, cocaine, and amphetamines. Jack recalls an assignment where he was required to go to a clandestine amphetamine lab operation along with a Forensic Chemist. Back then, there was no use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the place was full of gasses and chemicals. His Chemist colleague asked him to read the labels on one of the chemical drums. He readily complied, "P-O-T-A-S-S-I-U-M C-Y -A..." "Get the hell out of here", screamed his colleague. Potassium cyanide mixed with other acids creates the lethal cocktail of cyanide gas. With his experience in investigations like these, Jack became integral in the development of compulsory PPE for Drug Squad detectives and his further dedication to this area of policing, ensured that there is now a dedicated Clandestine Lab Team today.

I'd never heard of the term "Cold Start", probably because it's contextual within the lingo of the Drug Squad (something I'm clearly lacking experience in). The term is used when a detective goes undercover to try and 'score' drugs that will lead to an arrest of the dealer. Jack was only new to the Drug Squad when he was sent to a shop in Richmond for his very first "Cold Start". He approached the shopkeeper to ask if he knew where he could score heroin. He was directed to another man (who just happened to be hanging around) prompting Jack to get into a car with him, which he did obligingly (It's not hard to imagine what would have been going through Jack's head at that time). Fortunately, he did get dropped back at the shop, with his 'score' of heroin which led to an arrest. Jack got quite a high out of this (pardon the pun), and the more experienced he became, the larger the quantities of drugs were seized and the more he learned about the illicit drug trade.

By this time, life had taken Jack and Rob down different paths and they went through a period of losing contact with each other. Rob recalls attending a cricket function at The Vine Hotel in Collingwood one night when he saw a long-haired guy with earrings walk into the pub. He had to look twice but knew on second glance that it was Jack. He was pretty excited to see his old mate, so went up to him and said, "G'day Jack". Rob received a very abrupt reply, "my name's not Jack". Little did Rob know that Jack was working undercover.

Working out of Russell Street Police Station, Jack and his team began to realise that they were putting the entire building at risk as they went to and from undercover assignments out of Russell Street. This led to Jack and his team establishing a dedicated Undercover Unit and the development of the respective training. By this time Jack had married Gayle and started a family, so life was extremely busy. But, despite all he had going on, he managed to continue working with the Drug Squad gaining a promotion to Sergeant in 1987.

Jack took a break from the 'hands-on' for a couple years and moved to the Detective Training School as an Instructor to new detectives and then on to Northcote Police Station. He was by now actively pursuing opportunities to improve different aspects of policing. This also involved programs to implement organisation wide change, something that Jack continued to pursue up until he retired. Probably his most enjoyable role was as a Senior Sergeant at the newly created Undercover Unit in the mid-1990s. This involved setting up the unit from the outset and quickly achieving outstanding results whereby it was recognised around Australia as a ground-breaking unit. Under Jack's leadership the unit was able to infiltrate a bikie gang that involved undercover police being accepted as patched gang members. This was the first time this had ever been achieved in the world.

DRINKING

These were interesting times for Jack as he ran an investigation with police informers as the Melbourne Gangland killings began to escalate. Nicola Gobbo being one of these informers. Findings from his investigation named her as a 'loose cannon', however, Jack's insights of this never saw the light of day until the recent Royal Commission.

In 1998, Jack decided to broaden his horizons and for the next two years moved to another major reform program called Local Priority Policing where he used his skills and experience to work on a complete restructure of the whole policing system and how each of the regions should be run. The changes that Jack implemented during this time are still in operation today.

Another promotion ensued, this time to Inspector with Project Clarendon to establish Crime Desks and the Crime Scene Officer role around the State. An integral part of the Crime Desk operation is the LEAP Electronic Data Recorder (LEDR) direct data entry application. The tool is used by police to take reports of property crimes over the telephone; 75 per cent of all recorded crime is property crimes and LEDR is used for 39 per cent of all crime records.

Jack had also commenced his Masters in Public Administration at Melbourne University, finding the experience beneficial way beyond the academic element. He was exposed to people from diverse organisations with different thinking. Jack says, "as police officers, we receive constant internal training, but it is only external training that gives you that extra insight and broader perspective in viewing all situations objectively."

Jack racked up another notch in his belt in 2004 when he was promoted to Superintendent to oversee serious and organised crime with the Crime Department, including work with the Purana Taskforce at the height of the Melbourne gangland killings. During this intense period of work, somehow Jack managed to complete his studies and graduated with his Masters.



Jack and his family at the Australia Day Award ceremony

Jack's many years of service to the Victorian Police Force culminated when he received the APM (Australian Police Medal) in the Australia Day Honours in 2012 for his Service to the Victorian Community. This was the proudest day of his career for reasons far beyond receiving his medal. "My family were there with me and it put it all in context. They had to bear the consequence of my time away from home and my long working hours but were always there to

support me through it all."

Jack's work within the community continued for the rest of his time within the Police Force. From 2009 Jack spent three years overseeing one of the very difficult and complex divisions, made up of the Hume, Moonee Valley and Moreland municipalities. An example of the work police were doing in the community was a program to take a group of teenagers, (who were usually considered to be kids that were in need of support), on the Kokoda Trail. Two groups came from privileged schools and one from a school in a lower socio-economic area. The opportunity brought together these teenagers from different worlds in an environment where they could learn and grow. On return to Melbourne, Jack found that many of the youths kept in touch and visited each other's homes. "It just goes to show", Jack says, "despite different backgrounds and opportunities their experience on the Trail program demonstrated that they were all generally the same. They shared similar aspirations, desires and needs and developed a bond based on support for each other and respect."



Jack on the Kokoda Trail

2011 to 2013 found Jack promoted to Assistant Commissioner of the Western Region which comprised a huge area from outer western Melbourne to the South Australian border, up to Mildura, across to Echuca and back down south to outer northern Melbourne incorporating about 150 police stations. Jack made it a point to visit all of the stations during this time, and only fell a handful short – and that was because they were 'single member' country operations, and when he turned up, no-one was there.

Graham Ashton, the Chief Police Commissioner back then, approached Jack in 2015 and asked him to take on the role of Chief Information Officer at HQ. He wasn't sure if this is what he wanted at the time, but Jack recalls, "he was the boss and he was very persuasive." His time in this role saw Jack implement some of the most important advances in policing IT including body worn cameras, a new intelligence system and hand held devices (iPhones and iPads) for all frontline officers. Jack retired from this role and the police force in 2019, but as they say in the classics, "you can't keep a good man down."

Jack now works as a Government appointed consultant as part of an expert reference group to create a Public Health Model for the decriminalisation of public drunkenness. This

model was flagged in the 1990's but with the recent and tragic death of Tania Day, it has been brought to the fore to be addressed. Along with the CEO from the Aboriginal Legal Service, COO from the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), and former Executive Director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Jack, and his team are close to presenting a final proposal. Watch this space....

When I ask Jack about the psychological and emotional fallout from what he experienced and witnessed during his career, he is grateful that he has not been adversely affected. "I have seen it in many of my colleagues. Some people deal better with these things than others, but for me, I am fortunate to have had the incredible support of my family and the ability to keep fit and active. I think because of this, I have been able to process incidents and move on. But don't get me wrong, there are times that I have really felt the pinch of the reality of what's involved in my daily work. Road tragedies probably hit me the hardest, especially involving young people. I recall travelling to a collision in Western Victoria where there were five deaths; four were teenagers in one car heading to a day at the races. A few months later, I attended another collision on the Princes Freeway where a car travelling at high speed on the wrong side of the road collided with another vehicle. Six young people were killed. These would have to be some of the worst incidents I have had to deal with in my career in the Police Force."

Much of Jack's learnings from a long and esteemed career in the Victorian Police Force, and what he incorporates into his daily life reflect the Mission of Marcellin College today – Education, Community, Social Justice and Spirituality. Having a strong commitment to social justice and working in partnership to serve the community are all very much key elements of the work of the police force. "The more I progressed, the stronger I identified with policing and how important it was in ensuring community harmony and safety. In doing this it's focus is on serving the community and focus on assisting those in need of support. That includes a commitment to learn and improve all the time. To achieve that an organisation must be open, fair and accepting of scrutiny. Sometimes that can be difficult to deal with as policing is challenging on many levels and has many critics. But it is important that police focus on what is in the best interests of the community it serves. Continuing to do that means community support will follow." Jack says.

In his (well, kind of) retirement, Jack enjoys keeping very fit – he runs, cycles, hikes and plays hockey as well as spending quality time with his wife, Gayle, his sons Nicholas and Patrick, daughter Katrina and grandchildren, Francesca (Frankie) and Sonny. He does not easily forget the enormous sacrifices his family made throughout the years to support him in his career, and for that he will always be grateful.

MARCELLIN POLICE OFFICERS

MEGAN DOBBS

FOSTERING CAMARADERIE AND UNITY



Megan with her sons Ethan and Fraser

Megan completed her Higher School Certificate (HSC) at Vaucluse College and went on to study a Diploma of Teaching (Primary) at Phillip Institute of Technology (Coburg) whilst working in a variety of part-time jobs. These jobs included working at Safeway Preston at the check-out and in a nursing home in Northcote in the kitchen and laundry most weekends. Megan also worked in the after-school care program at Keon Park Primary School in Reservoir and as a leader on school holiday programs funded by the Preston City Council. These roles prepared her for policing as they provided exposure to different people and settings as well as a great deal of responsibility and how to navigate challenging customers.

In 1990, on completion of her Diploma of Teaching, Megan attended her older brothers Police Graduation Ceremony at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley. She was immediately drawn to the idea of joining the police force, initially wanting to join the Police Schools Involvement Program. This crime prevention program was designed to enhance the relationship between police and young people to build trust and reduce the likelihood of children going down the wrong path. Given her interest in children, Megan thought this would be a great way to interact with children and young people whilst being a part of the big policing family. The ceremony was amazing with all the marching, the pipe band, the uniforms and the overall positive vibe. In 1991, Megan submitted her application to join Victoria Police.

As a new Constable it was very exciting and at the same time daunting. Megan remembers, “back in those days newly graduated trainee police worked in the city patrolling the streets and learning how to direct traffic under supervision. I distinctly recall managing the intersection of Flinders and Swanston streets

without traffic lights. There were pedestrians, cars, trams and the odd emergency vehicle rushing through as we blew our whistles and gave very exaggerated hand signals. We wore long white sleeves and gloves, so we were visible to motorists as there were no fluorescent vests back in the early 90’s for police!”

One of the biggest things that Megan had to adjust to, was the nightshift which would generally be on a four-week rotation. “I worked at Flemington initially for two years before transferring to Transit Police, an arm of Victoria Police that focussed on the public transport network. Both those roles were an eye-opener as I was really exposed to all walks of life, where I was able to help those who needed assistance and dealt with those who broke the law. As a new Constable it is like being an apprentice - you learn from those more experienced police around you whilst you are being assessed for competency and performance. Policing by its very nature has risks and there is a reliance on our colleagues to get the job done together and safely. This is what creates a bond between us all, fostering camaraderie and unity. After 28 years in Victoria Police I continue to feel this way today.”

Megan held many and varied roles along the road to becoming Inspector, which made the time go very quickly. After working in general duties and feeling the need to specialise, Megan took up a position in the Melbourne Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Team and within two years moved across to Carlton Criminal Investigation Unit. After four years, she was then promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the Boroondara Police Station where she remained for approximately seven years. From there it was a move into the Family Violence Co-ordination Unit within Crime Command as a Detective Sergeant. “This is where I developed a deeper understanding on family violence and a passion to prevent it in our community,” says Megan.

In 2015 Megan was promoted to Senior Sergeant within a unit called Priority Communities Division. “I engaged with diverse communities and stakeholders including those who live with a disability, multicultural and multifaith groups, Aboriginal communities and seniors to ensure Victoria Police understood these communities and how we could best work together. This experience certainly increased my knowledge of human rights, unconscious bias, prejudice and an appreciation of the importance of community connection and social cohesion”, recalls Megan.

In 2017, Megan was transferred to Eastern Region as the Family Violence Coordinator to support the implementation phase of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations.

Megan was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 2019 and currently manages the Police Conduct Unit. “Learning a different side of the policing business all during a pandemic has been challenging, however, I have a great team around me which has made it quite smooth. Both my team and I have been alternating working from home and in the office to support social distancing rules and their ability to adapt in uncertain times has been fantastic” says Megan.

In this current role as Unit Manager of the Police Conduct Unit, Megan and her team of 14 are responsible for all compliments and complaints within Victoria Police. They conduct initial reviews and assessments relating to the conduct of Victoria Police employees receiving and recording a range of matters from poor service delivery complaints to serious misconduct. Complaints can come from both internal and external sources are reviewed and can lead to criminal charges or disciplinary charges for an employee depending on the seriousness of the conduct. Megan says, “my role is to oversee the day to day functions of the Police Conduct Unit to ensure my team make sound and timely decisions, respond to the person reporting the behaviour or conduct and identify risks, unethical and problematic behaviours. It is imperative as a law enforcement agency we have integrity and high ethical standards to ensure we have community confidence”.

“I feel incredibly fortunate that I have quite a few highlights along my journey however right now my top three highlights would be:

- 1) Developing expertise in family violence and violence against women and children. Being able to influence change across the organisation has been tremendous honour. Having the opportunity to work with external organisations such as DHHS, Men’s Behaviour Change programs, Multicultural organisations. One notable opportunity was supporting Women with Disabilities Victoria in developing a suite of resources for practitioners working in the disability sector.
- 2) Award Recipient: In 2019, I was the recipient of the International Association of Women in Policing Recognition Award and Scholarship. As the first Australian policewoman to receive this award, I attended the 57th International annual training conference in Anchorage Alaska (USA) in September where I was joined by 700 female police from 43 nations at the conference which had a focus of ‘mentoring the next generation’.

3) Promotion to officer rank: In December 2019 I was successful in attaining the rank of Inspector.



Megan with her award with her Award in Alaska

Megan doesn't like to focus on the low moments of policing because she feels that there is so much positivity that comes from the work of our police community and counteracts the negative. For her, being surrounded by people dying whether it be at the hands of another, an accident, bushfires, mental ill-health or drugs and alcohol are all areas of her work that she finds challenging. Megan says, "In particular, the tragedy on the Eastern Freeway on 22 April 2020 where four colleagues were struck by a truck and fatally wounded will be forever etched in my heart and mind. What gave enormous comfort at that time was not only the big blue family, but the outpouring of caring, kind and compassionate messages and behaviours from the Victorian and broader Australian community."

Both of Megan's sons are currently at Marcellin. Fraser is in year 12 and Ethan in Year 10. Megan always talks to her boys about the importance of doing something that they love and enjoy and that will have a positive impact on the lives of others. She believes that working in a field that is both worthwhile and rewarding just feels like you are not going to work each day (Megan says this with the conviction of her own experience). Her work in policing has provided so many unique and varied experiences and opportunities, and to this day, she still enjoys it as much as she did when she joined 28 years ago.

Fraser has expressed interest in joining the Australian Army for a gap year in 2021 to have a break from study, however, he will be applying for a university course within the sports/business field. Megan believes there is benefit for some young people taking a break from the formal learning environment to work. "It can help to have some time and space to re-think goals and aspirations whilst also providing an opportunity to gain work experience and a level of independence." Ethan is interested in business related occupations, but Megan says, "regardless of the pathways they take, I do hope that my sons are able to have a similar journey

and will leave a legacy for those who follow behind them."

KEV PERRY

(Alumnus 1985)

Kev is one of those likable, easy going men who always has a story to tell and is good at entertaining the room. This was emphasised in 2019 when Kev's son Lucas was in Year 12 and playing in the First XVIII. Lucas approached the Marcellin Foundation who organise the annual Friends of Football Lunch, to see if we could include a segment for the day celebrating the Herald Sun victory in 1985 of the First XVIII. This was particularly pertinent as Kev had played in that team, and here was his son captaining the First XVIII 35 years later. We invited Kev to address the sold out audience on his memories of that year and that game. Needless to say he went way over his allocated time, but left the very appreciative crowd still wanting more!



Kev Perry in year 12

Kev began school at St Clements in Bulleen before heading to Sacred Heart in Kew for his primary schooling. He began his Marcellin journey at the Camberwell Junior school in Grade 5 in 1979 and moved on to the Bulleen campus in Year 9 completing his schooling at the end of Year 12 in 1985. Kev has great memories of his time at school, saying "I loved my school experiences, heaps of sports, great mates and a small smattering of study."

Kev's initial thoughts on leaving school were to become a Physical Education teacher, and consequently announced this to his parents and grandparents, to which his grandfather replied, "Have you ever seen a bloke over thirty wearing a track suit?" This led to Kev rethinking his ambitions, realising he liked the idea of looking after people, he decided to apply to become a police officer. A waiting period of six months to be eligible and a rigorous process of testing suitability saw him enter the Academy in December of 1986.

Upon graduating from the Academy at the age of 19, Kev began his policing career at Greensborough Police Station. He feels that the

recruitment was excellent back then. Firstly the period of formal training and then getting experience in core aspects of the job such as finger prints, traffic operations, court security, communications (D24) and probably best known, city traffic. A bit of excitement for a young cop: standing on the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, directing traffic, dodging trams and blowing your whistle at rogue cars and pedestrians. Kev then returned to Greensborough and then Heidelberg.

Kev felt that he never looked at the job as a way to rise through the ranks, but rather to use the skills he was interested in which in the end brought him back to teaching. He was given the opportunity to shine in this area, teaching everything from driver training, law instructor, firearms, defensive tactics, instructor training, critical incident response, close protection, counter terrorism and suicide intervention. Kev finished at the rank of Sergeant.

One of the attractions of policing is that there is never a typical day. Every day for Kev was that feeling of "what are we going to face today". He dealt with many people doing weird and wonderful things.



Kev at work during a siege

Kev has had many highlights during his career listing the following as some of the more memorable ones:

- Travelling to India as protection for the Premier
- Looking after the Prime Minister at the MCG on Grand Final Day
- His first lost child and being able to reunite the child and parents
- Searching the bush with close mates for missing people
- Running an arrest team at the G20

However in Kev's own words, "I think the best summary of the highs and lows could be summed up in my role as a Suicide Intervention Negotiator. I would be standing on a bridge or a tall building or through a barricaded door, talking to a person that wanted to end their life. I can still feel the absolute elation of being able to talk someone out of following through. What an amazing feeling. To explain the low side, I can still

see the faces of people who I had been talking to follow through with their end of life threat.”

Today Kev maintains an affiliation with Marcellin, saying he always feels at home on campus. He played Old Boys and Super Rules football and has kept in touch with the school by the fact of having three boys attending. He even met his future wife Kathy at his Year 12 retreat so “even the so called dull moments at Marcellin provided me with great highlights.”



Kev with his wife Kathy at a Marcellin function

Here at Marcellin we love to hear of happy customers and in Kev’s words “I had no hesitation and had great pride in watching my three sons Jordan, Matthew and Lucas all carve out great school careers at Marcellin. Watching them make great mates, engage with awesome teachers and have many sporting highlights has been an absolute source of joy in our life. Our daughter Leah even goes to our sister school, Our Ladies in Heidelberg. They are my greatest supporters and even though I kept crazy hours at times, I hardly missed their major moments.”

Today having left the Police Force, Kev rides the ups and downs of careers in Property Development and Construction.

PETER ALDERSON

A Good Copper

Peter Alderson’s association with Marcellin began in 2010, strangely enough with a visit to his GP. As someone who has a strong awareness of how important it is for men to look after their health, it was a chance visit to Dr Bernie Crimmins OAM. Bernie is an old collegian and Chairman of the Marcellin Foundation Board. He is a well known advocate of Mens’ Health. He is also strong supporter of the Old Collegians Football Club and a member of its Bald Eagles coterie. As a result of this health related visit, Peter also joined the Bald Eagles. He says, “after visiting Bernie, he ‘easily’ convinced me to come down on Sunday and join the ‘Baldies’. That was in 2010 and I have loved every moment of my involvement with the club since. I have met some outstanding and wonderful people through the club all with their own varied connections to Marcellin.”

Peter did not attend Marcellin for his secondary education. “I went to school in Queensland for

my sins” says Peter. After his father retired from the RAAF the family moved to Cairns where he completed his schooling, before following in his father’s footsteps joining the RAAF. With this came the move from the warmth of Far North Queensland to the chilly south of Melbourne. Peter remembers, “this was a huge culture shock”.

Like many boys of his era, Peter wasn’t particularly fond of school and just wanted to go out and earn a living. He wished that school-based apprenticeships were around back then as that is the path he would have taken. Instead, Peter completed his year 12 schooling on a Friday and joined the RAAF on the Monday! Unlike Victoria, school in Queensland was relatively easy with school-set exams rather than state-based. This made life a little easier in terms of the dedicated teaching staff who would write the exams and then write revision sheets to help their students. And, it was a fortunate thing that the revision sheets always seemed to be pretty similar to what was on the exam!

In his first role in the RAAF, Peter worked in Engineering, fixing fighter jets for a living. He loved being in the RAAF but things changed when he was made a Unit Trained Specialist. This had him pigeon-holed on fighter jets which limited his scope of movement. The whole idea of him joining the armed forces was to see the world. So, he ended up leaving the RAAF, but without any idea of what he was going to do.

An engineering opportunity arose with Queensland Police fitting radios and speed radars in police cars. A far cry from managing a fleet of 75 fighter jets! As it turned out, Peter loved this job and that’s where he was sold on the idea of becoming a police officer. It was just the next logical step in terms of his service ethic and a desire to belong to something greater. So, after only 12 months of working on the police cars, Peter ended up working in the police cars.

Peter loved his new career. After eight months of training, he was sent out to a place called Woodridge (in the greater Brisbane area). It was an area with one of the highest crime rates and had a reputation of the car chase capital of Queensland. “What was not to love about that!” recalls Peter. His very first job found him dealing with a man armed with a samurai sword threatening people in a shopping mall – Peter found this both frightening and exhilarating at the same time. And, it wasn’t long before he was involved in a car chase. “This was a great job!” he remarks.

Woodridge was part of the Logan Police District and consisted of a number of city-style stations as well as two rural stations. Peter worked in all the stations, including the rural farming stations

at a place called Jimboomba and Beaudesert. At the time, they were farming communities and provided a totally different perspective on policing, particularly in the area of community involvement and engagement. The issues and contrast between the city and rural stations and communities was eye opening and provided him with (what he hoped) was a more balanced perspective on what policing was really all about.

“I was a ‘good copper’ and completed all the necessary training to advance my career” says Peter and “ultimately (before I left) I was the officer in charge of a station in Far North Queensland.” There are so many jobs within the police force that have their own career paths such as forensics, scenes of crime, traffic branch, general duties, tactical crime squads but for Peter, where he wanted to be, and progressed through the ranks to be, was a Detective. That was where the real action was. To be promoted, first he had to submit an application and then sit before an interview panel. This was followed by a the minimum education requirement or training for each promotion, such as, completing the Constable Development Program for a promotion to Senior Constable.

When asked what a ‘typical day was like’ Peter says, “there was never a really typical day in the police. As a general duties officer, my goal was to train the next generation of officers to be the best police they could be. So, I always had a goal of ensuring that my trainees made an arrest in a shift and if we didn’t, then we had to get two the next shift. An average year would be 100 arrests by a ‘regular’ officer coming to work and doing their job. My goal was to smash that out of the park with my trainees, and we did that. As a Detective, I still had the same goals, however the jobs were significantly different, particularly where my forte was drug offences and covert operations. I was involved in tackling outlaw motor-cycle gangs and serious organised crime networks. It was exciting work and was all hours. You might start a shift at 4pm but not finish until the next morning. With the larger cases, such as murder, you were actually at work for days on end to get a result. I also had a keen interest in car theft and re-birthing of stolen cars which crossed international borders.

So, there never was a typical day, some were better than others, but they were always great days.” Peter was stationed for a time in the most violent place in Australia – Aurukun in Cape York. With a murder rate per capita that was higher than Johannesburg (which was the highest in the developed world). “I had to police in an environment where you did not take side arms or other accoutrements with you because

of the extreme risk that they could be removed from you and used against you by members of the community. Policing and investigating in that environment was amazing but at the same time, challenging and extremely frightening. I was lucky enough to survive a gun fight where I was awarded a bravery citation for disarming an offender who was trying to shoot members of the community. I don't know if that was lucky, or I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time and had to do what I did to survive" Peter recalls.

There are also the other dangers of policing that don't involve people. Whilst living in Aurukun Peter and his colleagues had an unwelcome guest come and live inside their barracks – an enormous barking bird-eating spider. "Well, that spider decided to come into our barracks to live and I can tell you it was not a welcome guest at all. Oh, and it really did bark – really loudly and scared the absolute *&^% out of me. As you can imagine, living in a place like Aurukun, there wasn't any alternative accommodation, so we had no choice but to share digs with the terrifying creature."

One of Peter's more interesting jobs was when he was stationed in Cairns. There was a local offender who was essentially "ripping the guts out of the town". He was a very good thief and very difficult for Peter and his colleagues to track down. One day, Peter and his partner Michelle were out on the lookout for this weathered thief and were fortunate enough to find his whereabouts. What ensued was a very long and very fast car chase that ended with the offender doing a big 'Dukes of Hazard' jump into the river which was full of crocs (aptly named Saltwater Creek!) "As his car rolled in on him and we were concerned that he was going to drown so we (extremely stupidly), dived into croc-infested waters chasing our crook!" The culprit ended up swimming away into a mangrove swamp and they had to get the dog-squad out to find him. "We were lucky not to have been attacked by the salties that live in that river!!!" recalls Peter.

"Receiving my Detective appointment was a real career highlight for me" says Peter. "I also took great pride in seeing my trainees achieve their respective Detective appointments. It wasn't necessarily an easy road, but it was really rewarding." Peter also has the honour of arresting the oldest criminal offender – an 89-year-old drug trafficking man from the Tablelands in Far North Queensland. "The 89-year-old was not happy at all when we caught up with him and in honour I was awarded a 'walking frame' from my Detective colleagues for my efforts".

Another significant highlight of Peter's policing career was his investigation, arrest, prosecution, and ultimate sentencing of a very violent offender that targeted elderly women.

"It was extremely gratifying to help the elderly victims and show them that they are valued members of the community, and that what had happened to them was reprehensible. The offender was well known and had managed to elude justice for a long time, but we (the team) finally got him and he was convicted on some profoundly serious offences and sentenced to a long time in jail."

With the highs, inevitably come the lows. One of the more difficult times for Peter as a police officer was when two extremely serious rape cases came back with a 'not guilty' verdict from the jury. Peter found this very hard to understand and extremely difficult to explain the outcomes to the victims and assure them that they were right in their actions and that they didn't do anything wrong. "It was very hard for me as I had such a strong belief in the case that was presented, but moreso seeing the damage they had done to the victims" says Peter. "But probably the hardest thing to deal with in my career was the sudden death or killing of children. Being a father, I found it difficult to differentiate between my own children and the child victims".

Over his career, Peter says "I have been shot, speared, stabbed, spat on, kicked, punched, bitten and pricked with needles.

These are real dangers as an operational police officer and genuine risk to your life. I don't recommend anyone experiencing these, but it is all part of the job as a police officer. If anyone considering going into the force thinks they will be immune from these dangers or risks because you are a police officer, then they should probably reconsider their career choice."

"At the time I was a police officer, it wasn't really a favourable career for family life.

Fortunately, these days, this has changed with flexible family arrangements including part-time policing (that was never an option in my day). For me, I think I could only do it with the incredible support of my family. I am married to an incredible woman, Fiona. She is a high-school teacher and without a doubt is far smarter than me. I reckon I must have got her at a low moment to win her over! I am also lucky to have a wonderful daughter, Madeleine. She is still in high school and is also far smarter than me (takes after her mother). My girls are my rock and stood by me right throughout my policing career.

Peter left the police force in 2010 and enjoys having more time to focus on his family. He now works as an Investigator with the Federal Government but as Peter says "there are no car chases, drug dealers or mad offenders with a spear!"



Peter with his wife Fiona & daughter Madeleine



We acknowledge all of our Old Collegians who have worked in the Police Force and served our community:

- Kelvin Alderson
- Josh Ball
- Adrian Barnett
- Luke Bettiol
- Tim Bonnett
- Paul Carr (dec)
- Jordan Collinson
- Adam Cortous
- Daniel Dinnen
- Adam Drinkwell
- Tim Guerin
- Damian Guiney (dec)
- Adrian Jackson OAM

- Stephen Kholer
- Ian Knight
- James Kolozsi
- Mark Manassa
- Damian Marrett
- Dom McInerney
- Theo Nassiokas
- Paul O'Connell
- Josh O'Connor
- David Patterson
- Rob Piva
- Peter Sampbell
- Carl Stella
- Craig Walsh

We understand this is not an exhaustive list, so please let us know of anyone we have missed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JO BOURKE

Jo Bourke is a current Marcellin parent with two sons at the College, John (Year 12) and Julian (Year 9). She has been an active volunteer since John started in Year 7 as an MCCA committee member, canteen volunteer and running the Second-Hand Uniform Shop (SHUSH).



Growing up in Doncaster and Templestowe, Jo didn't venture too far from home when she settled down with her Husband, Tim, in Box Hill North. Tim is a Geelong boy, and he and Jo met at work at (what was then) the Melbourne Magistrates Court where they were colleagues working as Court Registrars/Clerks. They have come a long way since then. They will be 20 years married in October and have three children

Tim studied Law as a mature age student, starting as a practising Solicitor, then a Barrister for 14 years. For the past six years, he has been, and still works as, a Magistrate of the Victorian Magistrates' Court. Jo has stayed home for the most part, with part-time work between the kid's births and during the schooling years.

Like many parents, after Jo and Tim had children, they became volunteers in their community, be it within their Parish, their children's extra-curricular activities or within their school. Their primary school was St Francis Xavier in Box Hill where they were involved with the Parents & Friends, the Education Board, the Finance Committee with Jo volunteering more in the classroom environment as a classroom helper, or stall co-ordinator/holder at school fairs. Friendships in the community were forged, and the many experiences were rewarding.

Once John started at Marcellin, Jo intended to take more of a back seat and let others have an opportunity to participate in their community. But in his first year, a friend invited her to the MCCA's AGM as her token 'bring a friend' friend. Jo remembers that there was certainly no pressure to join the committee in any capacity, although the MCCA welcomed new members and their involvement – and they still do! Feeling the

fatigue from the last seven years at primary school, whilst juggling the everyday family life, Jo didn't have any intention of becoming a committee member of the MCCA.

But...the group were so welcoming and positive in both mind and spirit, and it was kind of infectious and energetic. Jo remembers, "How else would I have a 'feel' of the College, if I did not make any effort to try to learn, know and understand the principles and values of where we were entrusting our sons to receive their Secondary Education?"

A rewarding experience was about to become hers...

In Jo's first year at the MCCA, Alicia Zygmunt announced that after 15 years as the Coordinator of the Uniform Shop, she would retire in another year. The Uniform Shop was an area that Jo was interested in becoming involved in, so during the course of that first year, she put her hand up to take over the co-ordination and operation responsibilities. Alicia did not drop the ball and run either! She showed Jo the ropes, taught her the associated bookwork requirements, offered assistance as well as a listening ear whenever she needed it. To this day, the greatest gift that Jo has taken from her role in the Uniform Shop is the enduring friendship with Alicia and other volunteers from Alicia's era. "If not for this Uniform Shop environment, we would never have known each other, and life would be a little poorer", says Jo.

Curiously enough, Jo's mother-in-law also ran the Uniform Shop at Tim's Secondary School, St Joseph's College in Geelong (although Jo believes she will never reach the heights of her commitment). With nine children; six boys and three girls, (Jo is an only child-the irony!) this saw her at St Joey's, as it is affectionately known, for some 25-odd years in the role. A few years ago, the school graciously honoured her and her commitment by naming a school building in the arts precinct in the administrative area in her honour. So maybe volunteerism is in the Bourke children's gene pool...

When we ask Jo why she volunteers, she says; "I do it for my children; I do it for my family; I do it for me. I have been fortunate enough to be able to participate in this way. I wanted

to actively engage in my children's worlds in some way- and I hoped, and still do hope, that I have set an example of the rewards of volunteering within our community. To show what it is to care, to help and to be kind. To be a good person. Strive for the highest of courage. It is the philosophy of our school and what we wish to bestow on our children."

"The other personal rewards were not something I had envisaged nor expected, but it was received gratefully none-the-less. My involvement in the MCCA, canteen and SHUSH has seen me meet parents from all year levels at the school that I would otherwise not have known but for these forums. Within these groups friendships have developed and been nurtured. A sense of community for parents is present and felt. How can this not be a good thing for us parents? We share 'household tips' with each other: learning pearls of wisdom about the various needs/requirements our boys have during their school years. I have also had an



opportunity to meet, get to know and have working relationships with staff members, from those in leadership roles, administrative staff, and maintenance crew. I have had the privilege of having a wonderful relationship with the Foundation Office group too. All these people would not be known to me were it not for my role at the

College. If I ever need help with something (anything!) nothing has ever been too difficult for them. I have always had a quick response to my questions and needs. Every single person has been so forthcoming in their assistance because they have been grateful for the help that we give as volunteers."

"What stands out is the spirit of the Community, and the feeling of belonging to the Marcellin family. To have courage to participate is a wonderful achievement. To strive for the best you can offer is a virtue to embrace. It is our school motto not just for the boys, but for the families and staff to embrace too if they wish. And in life, particularly during Covid 19, that is a gift to treasure."

“
Virtute Ad Altissima.
”

“ Adrian has also supported Marcellin boys over the years by providing Work Experience, Apprenticeships and jobs, in fact many of his employees currently are Old Collegians. ”

ADRIAN AND CARMEN GASPARINI

You'd expect the founder and owner of Woodridge homes to live somewhere impressive, and upon pulling up out the front of Adrian and Carmen Gasparinis home I wasn't disappointed. First impressions are of a well kept, large, interesting and impressive home in a beautiful environment.

Greeted by Carmen, I was warmly welcomed into this beautiful home to meet with her and Adrian to discuss their life and involvement with Marcellin.

Although not attending Marcellin College himself, Adrian was nevertheless educated by the Marists in Preston and then North Fitzroy. However he and Carmen were both open to looking at different schooling options for their three boys when the time came to select where they would go.

At this stage the family were living in Eltham, and they, along with Jacob (Alumnus'04) their eldest, visited Marcellin. As soon as they entered, they had a feeling that this was the right place with all three saying they felt the same. As the years went by the other two boys, Aydan (Alumnus'05) and Matthew (Alumnus'08) began at Marcellin as well and Adrian and Carmen feel that the boys got a lot out of their time here, making the most of the opportunities offered. And now let's go back to the path Adrian took toward his very successful business Woodridge Homes.

Adrian completed his Year 12 but on his own admission wasn't that interested in studying and feels he spent more than enough time playing pinball and pool during that year.

Upon leaving school, he naively thought he might take a year off to 'find himself'. His Dad, a carpenter, quickly brought him back to earth upon finding Adrian's plan to take it easy saying "You're starting Monday with me".

And so began Adrian's carpentry career. After working with his Dad for six months (mostly making house frames for AV Jennings), he signed up as an apprentice. He then began attending Trade School but gave it up after two years as it made it awkward for the business when his Dad needed him that he wasn't there one day a week. He also felt he was learning way more 'on the job' and ironically ended up employing a few of the boys he had attended Trade School with.

Whilst Adrian's Dad was happy with the status quo, Adrian was keen to move forward and either grow or start a new business, which became Eucalypt Constructions. This was named in the era when Australiana was the rage but unfortunately no one could spell it.

During this time Adrian had met Carmen who fortuitously lived six doors away. Both families had

migrated from Croatia which gave them common ground (and a beautiful place to visit on many subsequent holidays together and with their boys). They were engaged and then built their first home together on the Woodridge Estate in Eltham. Adrian had seen the plans for this very complicated looking build and wanted to challenge himself by tackling it, which he did with great success.

The name of the business then changed to the one we know today, Woodridge Homes, named after the estate where they first lived. Since then Adrian has built a solid reputation in the Housing industry with all of his work coming from referrals (can't get a better recommendation than that!). He has so far built 85 houses, all individually designed with each build typically taking around 18 months to complete, with Adrian in touch with the owners throughout the whole process. He initially worked around Lower Plenty and Yarrambat and these days tends to be more Ivanhoe and Eaglemont.

He puts the success of his business down to the personal connection they provide as well as much expertise. Many of his staff are long serving, having been there over 20 years. He trains the carpenters and the best ones stay on. He feels that he has a great team who provide the best of service, and doesn't really employ contractors.

Adrian has gained such respect in the industry that after realising he had never completed his Apprenticeship and hence had no official papers, at the age of 55 and 32 years after beginning his Apprenticeship he was awarded his Cert III in Carpentry by TAFE.

An interesting fact about Adrian is that he is the President of the World Wide Birmingham Roller Pigeons. He himself owns a couple of hundred pigeons and he has had the opportunity to travel around the world judging competitions. During this time he and Carmen have met many interesting people and have in fact consolidated some of those friendships by visiting others in their own homes and having people from around the world stay with them. Roller pigeon competitions are based on the pigeons flying in formations (not as I first assumed, homing pigeons), they fly as a group and perform a number of backwards somersaults providing an amazing aerial acrobatic display. National Geographic even did a special on Adrian and the 'Rollers' given he was the President of the International Rollers in 2010.

The Gasparinis have been long term supporters of the Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club, donating financially on an annual basis, as well as helping at the Club in many volunteer capacities. Their three sons have all played there and the eldest, Jacob, is still involved though not in a playing capacity anymore. When asked why it is important to both Adrian and Carmen to support the club, they strongly believe that you need to be



involved if your kids play sport...they don't believe in the 'drop them off, see you later' philosophy finding that it has given them a greater connection with the boys and their friends over the years and has fostered close family relations. They also believe the Club has given their boys a sense of identity and they have always felt welcome at the Club. And if the Club is doing well, it's providing a good environment for their boys.

The fact that Adrian and Carmen feel that Marcellin did a good job of helping them raise their boys, encourages them to still contribute to the community. It is a good measure of their values that they feel it is their duty to give back and that you can't just take all the time.

Recently Adrian took part in one of the Marcellin Foundation's Business Network Webinars. He and Scott Davies (from Technique Construction Group) chatted about all things to do with the Construction Industry. Adrian turned out to be a bit of a natural, as he has had previous experience being interviewed by National Geographic re his Roller Pigeons and was also part of a program made by the Victorian Government Department of Biosecurity and Agriculture in relation to a farm he owns where he uses sustainable farming methods and takes advantage of Government grants especially in relation to Blackberry Management. "If you know your topic, it is easy to toss around ideas, though not swearing was a challenge!"

Adrian has also supported Marcellin boys over the years by providing Work Experience, Apprenticeships and jobs, in fact many of his employees currently are Old Collegians.

When asked what role Adrian sees the Marcellin Foundation and Business Network playing in the wider community, he feels that it ties a lot of disparate entities together and gives a common ground. Volunteering has changed and the Foundation is able to focus on successfully running things and covering lots of aspects of the community.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ANTHONY CAFFRY

(Alumnus1983)

Anthony Caffry is one of those people who is a doer. The words 'you can't do that' wouldn't exist in his vocabulary. He is what we would often call 'a self made man' so lets find out what makes him tick.

Upon finishing school, he went straight off to work, believing that University was not for him at that stage. His first job was working for a mate's Dad installing music boxes in the Rialto as it was being built.

Anthony was then working with his father in the family business, Bartlett Industries, which was doing Architectural Signage. Initially they were outsourcing the finish to fine artists, however Anthony looked at what they were doing and decided he could work out how to do that and hence Bronzeworks was born.

Success came, with Anthony quickly building up a client base of high end architects, and over the years he has worked on private houses as well as other projects such as the Sydney Opera House and the Parliament buildings in Canberra (which is a two year project refurbishing the lifts).



Anthony with some of his bronze works

The original family business is also still running and it's wonderful that his 80+ Dad still comes in to work.

When we spoke to Anthony, we were still in the midst of Covid-19 and asked him how that had affected his business.

Anthony said he actually enjoyed it as it gave him much greater time at home with family. He was also travelling interstate less. Because he runs Bronzeworks as a lean ship, and does most of the work himself, he was able to wind everything back and give himself more thinking time.

Of course they are 100% reliant on the building and construction industry so work has dropped off a bit, however through both the 2008-9 GFC and subsequently the 2013-14 economy downturn, Bronzeworks just kept on going (in fact in 2013-14 they were working on Hamer Hall). The Corona virus

was different in that it wasn't about money but rather health and well-being so the fact that everything was shut down impacted the business by around 30%.

Because Bronzeworks can be flexible, and is a relatively small operation with 10-12 employees, they have been able to take advantage of this with Anthony even being able to employ his daughter who lost her job teaching swimming.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Anthony has been researching another process whereby vapour and electricity are used to coat metal. The demand for physical vapor deposition coating is anticipated to grow significantly on account of its ability to improve a products appearance and durability along with updating the product's base material with additional functions. In addition, the coating does not require a process medium which makes it an environmentally friendly coating process that provides appealing, durable, and bright finishes on a wide variety of industrial and consumer components. Anthony feels this will change the landscape of what he does and Australian manufacturing in general.

Presently Bronzeworks caters to the High End market meaning many who love the look of what he does can't afford it. This new PVD process has been brought in to assist Hotels etc in achieving this. He will be able to turn over a lot more business and is presently installing two new machines in Richmond which are the largest capacity units in the country now. These will be switched on in the next month and then he is looking at an even bigger machine which he'll relocate in another suburb in Melbourne. The story I love is that due to Covid-19 noone could fly out to construct the machines, so Anthony watched a video and compared pictures and did it himself...with the help of a friends electro engineer employee.

The plan is to add a few more machines interstate, run them for a few years, and then hopefully sell and retire!

Whereas Bronzeworks will be a much more difficult business to sell as most of the IP is with him. It will be hard to transfer the information when the time comes.

Many of our readers will know what a fantastic support Anthony has been to the Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club being one of their main financial benefactors. He does this not for the glory or as a means of getting business but rather for his love of the club and the fact that he would love to see them achieving success.

He has also put his support behind the Marcellin Business Network and is also happy to support students coming out of the school who may need Work Experience or an internship. It's the kids that don't go to university that he is interested in..."You can be good at what you do without having to go to Uni".

Take a look at the Bronzeworks website if you want to be inspired with some beautiful pieces! (bronzeworks.com.au)

MATT FROST

(Alumnus 2014)



Matt with his sister Olivia

Matt completed Year 12 at Marcellin in 2014 going on to Australian Catholic University to study a Bachelor of Commerce (Major in Marketing) and a Bachelor of Laws, graduating in 2019 and recently completed his Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. As he has come to the end of his studies, Matt understands just how important engaging with the Marcellin community is, not just on a personal level, but for his future career advancement. His work placements have given him technical skills in his profession but have not provided him with opportunities to develop the very sought after 'soft skills' that are essential in working within the legal profession.

Matt never really played football during his school years at Marcellin, but he was very quick to jump on board with many of his mates the year after he completed Year 12 at Marcellin. He joined the Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club (MOCFC) Under 19s for the start of the 2015 season - not just for fun and exercise, but to be part of a fantastic network of people across a plethora of industries. As Matt says, "It is a fantastic community to be part of and to leverage off."

The MOCFC has been a constant for Matt since. It is a place where he has maintained and expanded friendships and just enjoyed being part of the general banter as well as more intellectual conversations with the other guys. These 'conversations' are a two-way street-the knowledge and experience from some

of the older guys who have worked in the legal world have helped Matt in his career journey and conversely, he feels that he is able to share the experience of juggling university, study and part time work with the younger guys who are just starting out, giving them some insight into the road ahead.

Currently Matt is Secretary of the MOCFC, a role he has been in since December 2019 and for the 12 months previous to that, he was the Club's Communication Manager. He is also part of the Marcellin Business Network. Matt says, "it is really important to be an active part of our Community. At present, it is difficult for everyone as there is a feeling of disconnect. Living in a 'virtual' world is just not the same as meeting people face-to-face."

Matt believes that people will make a really concerted (even more than usual) effort to connect once Covid restrictions are lifted. Living without broader human connection has highlighted more than ever just how significant the role of Community plays in our lives. "No-one knows what the next 6-12 months will look like, so being there for your mates, and those in the community is of the greatest importance right now."

PATRICK HAMBLIN

(Alumnus 2012)

Patrick loved his sport at Marcellin. He played for the First XVIII in football, the First XI in cricket and was Captain of the Marcellin Swimming Team in 2012. But it didn't stop there - he went on to play with the Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club and has remained there since. He understands all too well, how the networks that you form are the stepping-stone to opportunity.

Patrick completed a double degree in Civil Engineering and Business Management at RMIT in 2017. During his degree, he was fortunate enough to be able to go on exchange for a semester in Leeds, England. Patrick says, "It was an amazing experience and gave me some global contacts that I still keep in touch with today."

Kingdom Constructions was where Patrick worked in his first role as a Civil Engineer during his university studies, giving him a great grounding to his career. When the time came for him to move on, Kingdom Constructions were eager to replace him and asked Patrick if he knew of any undergraduate students looking to get experience in the construction industry. Patrick's immediate thoughts were to look for a Marcellin Old Collegian who might fit the profile. A friend of Patrick's younger



Patrick at work on the Westgate Tunnel

brother Matthew, Dylan Colaci, was studying the same degree as Patrick, and was looking to break into the industry. Patrick put in a 'good word' for him and Dylan was the successful candidate and still works for them today.

At present, Patrick is working on the Westgate Tunnel Project as a Site Engineer with CPB Contractors. He has been employed with CPB for the past three years, over which time he has gained invaluable experience on major infrastructure projects such as the Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project and the West Gate Tunnel Project. He is extremely grateful to be in full-time and permanent employment. He hopes that through his connections with the MOCFC and the Marcellin Business Network, he may be able to provide advice or opportunities for those young men in the community that are starting out, especially during these more challenging times.

CALEB OSTWALD

(Alumnus 2019) The Verve Collective

Caleb Ostwald was the Marcellin College Captain in 2019. During this time he involved himself in many aspects of the community and really grabbed the opportunity being a School Captain offered.

He has a great respect for his fellow human beings and the environment and is always looking at ways to better both, and has many goals and values which reflect this. He especially wants to empower young people to exceed their potential.

He in fact was a leader throughout his school days, representing the SRC four times making sure he contributed.

Caleb was also a representative in the Victorian Young Leaders to China program and has taken part in REMAR (Youth Ministry) DAV debating, the Davinci Decathlon (which not only tests physical endurance but mental capacity as well), the Senior Production and has represented different sports at a top level including AFL, Cross Country and Basketball. He has also taken part in various music ensembles over the years.

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He understands all too well, how the networks that you form are the stepping-stone to opportunity.
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Whilst School Captain, Caleb attended all of the Marcellin Business Network events organised by the Foundation. These included both on and off-site events and afforded Caleb the opportunity to network with Old Collegians and current parents. Pleasingly he attended these events with both parents (Neil and Joanne) who themselves have supported the Business Network over the years.

Presently Caleb is studying a Bachelor of Business Administration/Arts at Deakin.

Concurrently he has also started his own business The Verve Collective. Fittingly Caleb's business is about bettering our community and contributing back to society. "Our busy lives and the society we live in often leaves little room for active thought and intentions in daily life. The Verve Collective was born out of a desire to change this, and to empower individuals and communities to take back control of how we live by providing free resources and easy access to businesses which can help everyone to eat cleaner, reduce waste, get involved in community and live happier, healthier lives."

At the moment Caleb has the one product being sold through his website (a Bamboo Thermos Tumbler) with plans for food stalls suspended due to Covid. No doubt once life is back to 'normal' Caleb will be progressing his ideas and products. We wish him well.

“
The key to finding your own peace and happiness is by spreading it, in your communities and giving something back to the planet.
- Caleb
”



Caleb with his bamboo thermos tumbler

OLD BOY BROTHERS AND PRIESTS



John McMahon - 1963
Head Prefect and School Captain



Br John at the 2016
Canterbury Roaders Lunch

BR JOHN MCMAHON

Recollections as a student

My parents, Beryl and George McMahon enrolled me at Marcellin College Canterbury Road, Camberwell in Grade 3 in 1953. Br Bede was our caring and happy teacher. I remember the bell hanging on the tree in the quadrangle waiting to be rung at the end of each class, for the prayer of the hour and for the saying of the Angelus. In 1963, I completed my second year of Year 12 at Marcellin College Bulleen. Br Evaristus taught us Physics and Mathematics (and anything else we wanted to ask him), Br Roger Chemistry and Br Sylvester Latin and Religious Education (including what it means to be a Christian Gentleman). We were blessed with excellent teachers who gave of themselves selflessly to help us achieve good examination results as well as an all-round education.

Significant moments of my ministry

In 1964 I began my life as a Marist Brother. Since then I have been blessed with many opportunities including living in prayerful communities, working with competent colleagues and serving diverse ministries.

I have always enjoyed teaching. Helping students understand concepts and processes gives me great satisfaction, particularly when it leads them to 'aha' moments and ultimately to a love of learning. I remember teaching Year 11 mathematics at Traralgon and pausing halfway through each class for the sharing of a joke or two.

When I became a school principal, such as at my alma mater, Marcellin College, I discovered new challenges in discovering how to lead a diverse school community in rapidly changing times. I found the Marcellin College of the 1980s to be very different to the one I attended in the 1950s.

I now enjoy the ministry of education at the tertiary level. As human beings we are primed for the practical. Embracing the theoretical often requires extra time and energy. Today we

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I have always enjoyed teaching. Helping students understand concepts and processes gives me great satisfaction, particularly when it leads them to 'aha' moments and ultimately to a love of learning.

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are blessed with so many excellent thinkers and writers who can help us shape flourishing communities locally and worldwide. Being a member of the Marist Brothers, now in 80 countries, gives us exposure to this world with its many needs and opportunities. Now, in my senior years, I am blessed to be able to contribute to this world in a small way through teaching in our Marist Tertiary programs.

FR MICHAEL RICHARDSON

(Alumnus 1960)

So Ends the Day

A Canterbury Roader Reminiscing 12 months after his retirement



Fr Michael (L) with Brian Millane (Alumnus 1961) at Marcellin's 70th Anniversary Lunch

For 50 years I walked with people in their joys and sorrows in parishes as diverse as provincial Geelong, suburban Pascoe Vale, Port chaplaincy to Melbourne, the mountains of Mansfield and the seaside of Queenscliff.

I, a most unlikely choice, inherited the Port Chaplaincy from a mighty man, Fr. Kevin Quinlan. The mission entailed the spiritual, physical and social care of all seafarers, without distinction of colour, race or creed.

Aware that their global industry was highly dangerous, very competitive and open to grave injustice for crews who were away from the supports of family and home for long periods of time, he consoled them in their sorrows and laughed with them at their sea stories.



Shipvisiting - a daily task

Kevin however did not please everyone. He was tossed overboard twice by angry unionists because of his fearless support of Catholic seafarers. Fortunately in my 22 years of visiting ships, I never suffered the indignity of swimming ashore. Instead, moderate unionists worked with me to win justice for foreign crews on ships of convenience.

Initially Kevin rented the Railway Union Hall opposite St Augustine's church in Bourke Street where he ran a weekly dance. Having no Confession Box, he put a sign on the lift: Out of order. Voila, he had a box!

When I joined him in 1974, his own purpose-built Stella Maris centre opened every night of the year. It provided a multitude of services. 120 wonderful, mainly youthful volunteers helped Kevin serve our guests. He was principal ship visitor, security officer, bus driver and friend. Contrary to today's political correctness, he smoked; the seafarers, entitled to duty free cigarettes, also smoked; he liked to have all windows closed so that a grey smoke-cloud shrouded the centre. Consequently my eyes would weep and my throat used to sting.

When I returned to parish life in 1996, I was not replaced. Instead a lay committee, aided by a smaller number of volunteers, a few paid staff and with the pastoral help of some generous priests, has run the centre. They have adapted to the many changing circumstances associated with shipping including longer hours to cater for dramatically shorter stays in port. Seafarers still suffer isolation and injustice. The task remains and is done admirably.

“

I was lonely and you made me welcome.

”



Peter O'Rourke Scholarship winner 1960



Fr O'Rourke at Marcellin's 70th Anniversary Mass

FR PETER O'ROURKE

My Marcellin College Memories

1958-59 Marcellin College, Canterbury Road coming from St Dominic's Primary School in East Camberwell and St. John's, Marist Brothers in Hawthorn

1960-62 Arts Degree Melbourne University

1963-65 Corpus Christi College, Werribee with Michael Richardson, John Ferwarda, Martin Dixon, Gary Mitchell and Robert Elson

1966-69 Corpus Christi College, Glen Waverley with Pat Harvey, Leo Gilfedder and John Elson

1970-85 Assistant Priest Parishes of Flemington, Moonee Ponds, Thomastown West

1973 National Pastoral Institute, Elsternwick

1974-75 Studied Philosophy, Politics and Sociology at Oxford University

1986-2000 Parish Priest St Leo the Great Parish, North Altona. Pope St. John Paul 11 visited the Parish and School 26 November 1986

2000-2018 Parish Priest Holy Name Parish East Preston

2018 March Retired Parish Priest. Still celebrating Parish and School Masses, Reconciliation, Nursing Home Visitation, Funerals and an occasional Marriage.

Significant Marcellin College memories

1. Angelo Vasta, my constant companion and mentor (with Robert Johnson on the Camberwell Junction to Canterbury Road tram) telling me how much he loved and appreciated his father, who had just passed us on the back of a council road-repair truck.
2. Bill Clancy tossing a balloon filled with water and Condy's crystals into the toilets on his Matric Break-up Day 1958. In those repressive years it looked the same as the storming of the Bastille.

3. At a Saturday night barbeque in John Zika's home a few days after our final Matric exams in December 1959 being given the jaw-dropping news for the revellers that John was joining the Franciscan Order in early 1960.

I had also quietly registered my interest in the Diocesan Seminary at Werribee with the Vicar General, Laurence Moran, celebrant of my parents' marriage, uncle of Laurie (my classmate) and brother Gerald at the same time. Fortunately, I waited another three years

Forming a triumvirate of ex-Marcellin students at East Preston Parish with David Delaney (Holy Name School Principal), Mark Tierney (Deputy Principal) and myself; for nine years solving parish and school issues in local coffee houses and Vietnamese cafes. We played the Marcellin connection ruthlessly.

Recently dining with Peter Ruddock, Richard Olive and Leo Slattery in my home unit and discovering that we had all had very colourful and eventful lives with their share of successes and disasters, but not in equal proportions and well worth the effort spent.

Telling the present Year 9 boys and teachers in the Marcellin College Chapel that they had to keep sending their new Di Pierdomenicos down to Hawthorn and not to Collingwood.

Recently at Sacred Heart Parish, Kew at Mass a parishioner revealed that he knew who Reg Poole, my St John's Hawthorn classmate was and that he had been at the MCG when Reg played Back Pocket at Hawthorn's 1st Premiership in 1961. After the Grand Final, I caught a train to the Loyola Jesuit Philosophy House at Watsonia for a weekend retreat that was organised by Marcellin Old Boys Association. The Hound of Heaven had really got me by then.

Over recent years I have spent much time enjoying proximity to the Marist Colleges in Preston and East Brunswick, as well as meeting parents eager to get their sons into Marcellin College. There is something honest and down to earth and a genuine love for the Catholic faith in these people, which I have appreciated discovering – at marriages, funerals, baptism parties, visiting homes and hospitals.

The Marist Brothers who taught me at St John's, Hawthorn and Marcellin College, Canterbury gave me respect for my faith which they taught us and encouraged us to live out. They were truly communities of Christian disciples and dedicated teachers serving us, wanting to give us the best possible education for life. Brothers Eustace and Roger, who

were brilliant thinkers, were always so prepared for their classes every day. But how much more work did they do in their home time? Remember the Physics tests and the Chemistry classes, always giving us tons to learn every day and showing great patience with our taking it in.

The Brothers respected us and helped us achieve our personal best. Their mission and their inspiration following the example of Mary and her Son were forged in the aftermath of the battered French Church after the Great Revolution of 1789. Particularly the Marist Brothers and later the Marist priests wanted to form youth, especially the poor and disadvantaged, to become energetic and talented Catholic men in their society. Coming back to Marcellin College now, it is inspiring to see how much the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat is flourishing in its modern setting – love for the faith and personal prayer, every form of educational opportunity, sport, music and the spirit of compassionate service for others.

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MARCELLIN TEACHERS – ABOVE AND BEYOND

DINO FAELIS

Dino Faelis – Old Collegian (1993) and Physical Education Teacher



Dino (right) Augustine House Captain

What years did you attend Marcellin?

I started at Camberwell in 1988 and completed year 7 and 8 there. I was a little anxious about coming across to Bulleen as the little fish in the big pond again, but my trepidation soon dissolved after I arrived here and it wasn't long before I felt right at home (so much so, that I haven't really moved out!) I found that coming across to Bulleen in Year 7 and 8 for footy training really helped with the transition as I already knew my way around and had made connections with some of the older boys.

What is your favourite memory of your time at Marcellin?

Well, it's not so much of a memory, but a feeling. There is so much about Marcellin that I loved (and still do) that it's hard to pinpoint it to one thing. I have great memories of sport and I hold very dear, the lifelong friendships. But, I suppose to encapsulate it, whenever I go to a gathering with Marcellin old boys, it doesn't matter what era we are from and if we have ever met, when we get together there is a special connection between us and we all get along as though we have always been friends.

What do you find significantly different from then to now?

I was really only away from Marcellin between 1994 to 2001 when I went to Uni and worked in my first couple of short-term positions outside of the Catholic sector. So really, I have evolved with the school, although, I would have to say that the building works are a significant difference.

What are your memories of teachers that made an impact on your life?

There are a few people that stand out to me. My Pastoral Leader in Year 12, Mark "Thommo" Thomas who was also Sports Master at the time. He suggested that I should consider a

career as a PE teacher – of which I really had no aspirations, but I am so glad that I listened to his advice. It must have been the right decision – after all, I'm still here, aren't I?

Fr John Carnie was someone who had an incredible impact on my life. I still remember my first meeting with him at Confession at Canterbury Road. When I went on to play in the First XVIII, he would always come along and watch the game which I am still very impressed with. He used to do impromptu visits to Marcellin families which were always so very well received, and our home was no exception. He used to like coming for an Italian coffee! I became good friends with John when I came back to teach at Marcellin. John married my sister and brother-in-law, myself and Sally and baptised my eldest daughter in the Marcellin Chapel. I was devastated to hear of John's passing, as I was overseas and couldn't get back for the funeral. But, in retrospect, from our last goodbye when I departed for that trip, I think he may have known we wouldn't meet again.

Why did you choose Marcellin to come back to teach?

My first two teaching appointments were at Hillcrest College in Broadmeadows (for two years) and Whittlesea Secondary College (for one year). I think that I held all schools to Marcellin standards and it seemed that there wasn't another school that would make the grade. This somewhat cast a bit of a shadow over my teaching career. I applied for a position at Marcellin when I left Hillcrest, but it was unsuccessful. A year later (when I was finishing my first year at Whittlesea), Paul Zappa phoned me to let me know that the position had come up again at Marcellin and literally gave me half an hour to make a decision. Fortunately, half an hour was plenty of time for me to decide! Coming back to Marcellin, I really felt like I was home and it gave me a renewed love and enjoyment of teaching again.

What has been your biggest challenge over your time at Marcellin?

I suppose as a teacher it is the ever-changing workload. There is so much more involved in being a teacher, than just teaching these days – all of the back-end administration, changing curriculum and making sure we keep it fresh and enjoyable for the boys.

What advice would you give our VCE students as they embark on a life outside Marcellin?

I think the advice I would give them is to take advantage of what is under their nose,



Dino with wife Sally at Marcellin's 70th Anniversary Lunch

and this probably applies more for younger students than VCE students. There are so many opportunities to get involved in from sport, language, music, art, theatre, etc. When you leave school, the opportunities just aren't there anymore. I often speak to boys in Year 12 who really regret not trying things out when they could.

What are your sporting interests/ achievements outside of school?

When I was at school, I played AFL and I also helped start the inaugural Marcellin Squash Team. These days I play indoor cricket, train with the Baldies and run free PT sessions focusing on Men's Health with a group of Dads from my daughters' primary school.

What story will your colleagues say about you at your farewell speech when you retire?

"He's finally left!"

Tell us about your family?

I am married to Sally, who is also a teacher at Sunbury Secondary College and have two beautiful daughters, Bridget (9 years old) and Greta (7 years old).

What are your hobbies?

Keeping fit, spending quality time with my family, socialising with friends and generally enjoying life!

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Fr John Carnie was someone who had an incredible impact on my life. I still remember my first meeting with him at Confession at Canterbury Road.

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Although Jill only commenced at the college in 2019, her ties go back much further than that with her husband, Bill and his extended family.

JILL FITZSIMONS

Director of Professional Learning & Partnerships at Marcellin

Jill collaboratively leads the direction of our professional development program; a role which calls for a deep interest in the development of staff and student learning in a community underpinned by faith and the possession of strong academic qualifications. She is an experienced educator and leader in Catholic education, having worked in co-educational and single-sex Catholic schools since 1996.

Prior to her role at Marcellin, Jill was Curriculum Leader at St Columba's College and English Learning Leader at Whitefriars College. She is a respected VCE English teacher and has also taught at Genazzano FCJ College and Loreto Mandeville Hall. Her students have consistently achieved outstanding results, including a Victorian Premier's Award. Jill has worked for VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority), marking the VCE English examination and GAT (General Assessment Task, and writes practice exams and presents workshops for VATE (Victorian Association for the Teaching of English). She is the author of a number of published study guides and can be heard regularly on 'Sunday School' with Libbi Gorr on ABC Radio Melbourne sharing her insights into how to be successful at VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) level.

Although Jill only commenced at the college in 2019, her ties go back much further than that with her husband, Bill and his extended family.

The connection between the Fitzsimons family and Marcellin began in 1980, when William (later known by almost all as Bill) began in Year 7 at the Junior School in Camberwell. Soon his cousins would join him, and at the high-point of the relationship between family and school there were five Fitzsimons boys at the Senior school in Bulleen at the same time. There is an old saying that if you shake a tree in Templestowe a Fitzsimons will fall out, but it is also fair to say that during the 1980s if you kicked a ball up in the air at Marcellin College, then a Fitzsimons would catch it.

To get some idea of the Fitzsimons connection:

- Anthony and Shirley Fitzsimons sent their son, William (Will/William by family/Bill outside of the family) to Marcellin. William finished in 1985. He is Jill's husband.
- Anthony had two sisters who attended OLMC. Anthony's cousins, Bernadette Selleck (nee Fitzsimons), Terry Fitzsimons

and Brendan Fitzsimons sent their boys to Marcellin.

- Bernadette (nee Fitzsimons) Selleck and Jerry Selleck had three boys who went to Marcellin: Mark (Alumnus1983), Paul (Alumnus1987) and Matthew (Alumnus1988). Their daughter, Andrea, sent her son to Marcellin too: Jack Fleming (Alumnus2017).
- Leo (Jerry's brother) and Annette Selleck sent Heath (Alumnus1991) and Michael Selleck (Alumnus1992) to Marcellin. (Heath now teaches Art at Sacred Heart Geelong. Bernadette thinks some of his artwork may be displayed at Marcellin.)
- Brendan (Bernadette and Terry's brother) and Maureen Fitzsimons sent Michael, Darren, Damien and Travis to Marcellin.
- Bill Fitzpatrick is the brother of Maureen Fitzsimons and uncle to Michael (Alumnus1986), Darren (Alumnus1988), Damien (Alumnus1989) and Travis (Alumnus1991). He is also Travis' Godfather. Bill attended Marcellin in the 60s.
- Terry and Eril Fitzsimons sent Dean (Alumnus1989) and Shannon (Alumnus1991) to Marcellin.
- Darren and Jodi Fitzsimons sent their son Luke Fitzsimons (Alumnus2017) to Marcellin.
- Karen Fitzsimons and Neil McNutt sent their son, Shea McNutt (Alumnus2018) to Marcellin (and Karen remembers doing ballroom dancing at Marcellin).

And to capture some memories of their time at Marcellin

WILLIAM (BILL) FITZSIMONS

(Alumnus 1985)

Bill remembers the 1984 Herald Shield Grand Final at VFL Park - Assumption V Marcellin.

The Assumption students were required to sit together on the wing in their school uniform but for the Marcellin boys it was typically laissez-faire. They could go wherever they wanted and were in free dress. The Marcellin boys walked past the Assumption boys at each of the breaks, to change ends, and chanted, 'Scoreboard' with the arrogance of those who are considerably in front."

Another time, one of Bill's classmates, Chris Melizia did his ACL in the library. So, in true mateship, he and his classmates formed

a guard of honour as Chris was carried out by the librarian. Bill recalls, "This earned me a lunchtime detention picking up papers, although to this day, I feel it was worth it."



1984 Herald Shield Premier



Jill and Bill

THE TEACHERS

A steep learning curve when coronavirus first slammed the door shut on classrooms has teachers much better placed to deliver lessons remotely this time around.

Not only will they be more adept at using technology to deliver lessons online, but they also know what works best and what matters most to their students, according to Marcellin College teacher Jill Fitzsimons.

"Last time it was all so sudden," said the years 9 and 10 English and literacy teacher.

"Schools are much more ready now. We've had that experience, we've learnt from it."

Ms Fitzsimons, who oversees staff development at the Catholic boys' college in Bulleen, said remote learning technologies had improved as had teachers' ability to use them.

The mother of three said seeing her own daughters' reactions to the second round of stage three restrictions had helped sharpen her focus.

"All the things that they thought were coming back – things like basketball, dance, drama – were off again," she said. "It reminds you as a teacher how hard you're going to have to work to build connections and have the engagement because you're going to be teaching kids just like your own who think 'oh my god, not more of this, more boredom, more loneliness'."



Marcellin College teacher Jill Fitzsimons

Jill featured in the Herald Sun

A MARCELLIN INSTITUTION

AL PARKIN

by Prue O'Shannessy

Probably one of the most well known teachers to come out of Marcellin is Al Parkin. I visited Al and wife Lorrie in their home where evidence of the full and rich life they have lived is evident on the walls which are covered with photos of their extensive and varied travels.



Al and Lorrie Parkin

Al completed his own schooling at the end of 1955 from which he headed off to Uni and then his first job at Werribee High School in 1961. It was here that he met Lorrie. They taught here together for three years, the last as husband and wife. At the end of 1963 they headed overseas on a Dutch liner travelling through the Panama Canal on their way to England, a journey of 5 weeks.



1967 Al First year teaching at Marcellin

They then toured around Europe for 7-8 months before landing jobs in England teaching. When it was finally time to head homewards, they bought a Landrover and drove from London to Bombay including crossing the Khyber Pass. This journey and its associated amazing experiences took them five months. They then shipped their vehicle home to Melbourne from Bombay.

At this stage Al had an Aunt who was working at Marcellin and she alerted him to the fact

there was a job vacancy, so in 1967 Al joined the teaching staff of Marcellin Senior School with Br Leo Hurley as Principal. Al saw the transition from Brothers to lay Principals from Br Steven, Br John McMahon to Paul Herrick.

Al started off teaching Years 9, 10 and 11 but was soon moved by Br Romuald to Year 12 Chemistry, Maths and Science. It is amazing to hear how many boys were in the classes back then. Al started in 1967 with a Year 9 class of 48 boys! And in his Year 11 Maths class he had 52 students. Br Romulus had a class of 70 students with boys crammed into desks and sitting on all the steps in the classroom... wouldn't meet with any guidelines these days! Expectations were different then and it's interesting to contemplate the different pressures on teachers then and now. Al had two Year 11 Chemistry classes with 40 students in each and two Year 12 Chemistry classes with 35 students in each. He had no lab assistant so would spend Sundays preparing the solutions for the week's practical classes. His in and outboxes were always full with 150 Prac reports written every week. But most importantly, he says he loved it and that the kids were great.



Al teaching Maths

Al has taught a huge variety of boys over the years and has many fond stories of individuals and what they have achieved since leaving school. He tells one story of a boy called Carl Wilson (Alumnus'70) who was so clever, he had finished 100 Mathematics problems before the boy sitting in front of Al had even ruled his margins. (When asked about this Carl remembers Al with a great deal of respect and says he "treated the boys with a light, non-adversarial, and above all, fair approach. I always thought he had a genuine interest in sharing his knowledge with the students. And that respect was mutual.")

Al taught in the era when girls would come over from Our Lady of Mercy College to attend Science classes which were not offered on

their own campus. He enjoyed teaching them and found them to be a calming influence on the boys (in class at least!).

One of Al's skills was learning his students names, and he still remembers many Old Collegians when he meets them out and about, often from the back as that was how he would be looking at them as he strolled the classroom aisles. He remembers recognising and catching up with our own Dino Faelis (Alumnus'93) in Barcelona in 2004, and also seeing another retired teacher, Angela Dimattina in Avila in Spain. He has also taught some current staff including Justin Abbott (Alumnus'87), Sean Kolednik (Alumnus'86) and Nick Moloney (Alumnus'89). He also taught our own Foundation Chairman, and well known local medico, Bernie Crimmins (Alumnus'74). He modestly tells me that some students have told him he changed their lives by opening their minds to other possibilities.

When asked of his memories of Al, Justin Abbott says: "Al Parkin would be the most intelligent man I know. In fact if I needed a lifeline on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* he would be the man. His knowledge on almost everything was astounding. Obviously primarily in Maths & Science, but also the Arts, he was a great pianist. In sport – he coached the 1sts tennis for a number of years. I remember one day playing in the 1sts and one of our players was absolutely going off tap, expletives the lot. Al got him over to the side of the fence and whispered in his ear "We're not doing that today, understand?" Gentle but firm tone. The guy knew he meant it. Al played tennis every Friday night with the late Tony Box for at least twenty years that I know of. They used to pride themselves on having the highest combined age as a tennis doubles pair (you would have to check the figures with Al) and would be formidable opponents for many younger opponents.

Al is always the same when you see him. Extremely friendly, genuinely interested and with many great stories of his recent travel experiences.



Al's 68th 2006

“ | **When Al began at Marcellin there were seven Brothers and six Lay Staff teaching with about 500 students.** | ”

MEMORIES

Driving Lessons. Al instigated a learner driver programme for Year 12 students. Imagine staff members today being allowed to do this: In the 80s, some of the teachers were able to get hold of a dual control car from Bib Stillwell. They would then take groups of three students for driving lessons with the two in the back learning from instructions given to the driver and then swapping places. They would take the boys driving around the College and Bulleen with the purpose being it would save the families money as they wouldn't have to pay for as many lessons.

Dancing Lessons. One of the teachers (Michael Abbott) decided the boys needed to learn ballroom dancing so began classes. These then lapsed after a while, however Al decided to reinvigorate the program and hired some professional championship dancers to come and teach the boys and girls who came from Genazzano and OLMC. They would spend two hours on the dance floor and they were getting around 60 boys turning up each week for as many lessons. This occurred in students and teachers free periods.

Staff Socialising. Both Al and Lorrie were very active in organising social occasions for the staff. It's hard to imagine that when Al began at Marcellin there were seven Brothers and six Lay Staff teaching with about 500 students. These days we boast a staff of around 200 and a student population in the region of 1400.

The Parkins hosted a welcome 'do' at the start of every year at their house and at Christmas time another teacher, Mick Broderick hosted an end of year function at his house. There were many chances to socialise and it was very family oriented with things such as carpet bowls taking place in the Functions Room.

They also ran a cultural night at the Doncaster Art Gallery. Various teachers contributed to the night in the form of Richard Stone displaying paintings, Tom Sammut (Alumnus'88) playing piano, Peter Burns reading poetry and Val Reilly singing. The Parkins put on a supper and hired the gallery for the occasion.

Students. Al remembers Mark Spain (Alumnus'71) (one of five brothers) as one of the best students he taught. Tragically Mark passed away in an accident. His best friend was Frank Van Den Boom (Alumnus'71) who lived opposite the Trinity grounds on what was then a farm. Al says they used to stand at the top of the hill at Marcellin, and watch

Frank when he was in Year 8 stop the Bulleen Road traffic every morning whilst he herded his father's 200 cattle over to graze during the day, and then do the opposite on his way home each afternoon. Frank consequently came back to teach at Marcellin and was the first person to teach computing. He and the Parkins still catch up with each other. Al and Lorrie also meet up with Mike Gaffney, an ex student, who came back to teach Chemistry with great success.

Sport. Two highlights of his career and moments he will never forget were Marcellin winning the relay in 1968 and the tennis team winning the premiership in the mid 80s.



Al tennis 1999

He recalls the Marcellin students and teachers sitting at around the 40mt mark in the stands at Olympic Park at the State Championships in 1968, where Brendan Mathews took the baton. He was about 15mt behind the leader, but gained speed at a miraculous rate. The crowd were all on their feet in the stands, cheering madly as Brendan was first through the finish line. This was probably Al's greatest school sport moment.

The other was tennis. Al coached tennis at Marcellin for an incredible 25 years. In the mid 80's, the team went 3 years without winning a single game. In the fourth year, they turned it around and ended up winning the premiership.

It is interesting to note that Al played a weekly tennis match against Tony Box, another of Marcellin's revered teachers until recently when Tony sadly passed away. Al continues to play.

Biggest Challenge. Al found one of the biggest challenges while he was teaching was when he was Head of both Science and Mathematics. Any teacher would agree that is a big load and the aspect Al found hardest was trying to give good people with great ideas a voice and to be heard. He thought it important to lift people by listening and showing respect for their ideas.

Favourite Memory. In a word "friendships", "Our address book is full of Marcellin friends". And speaking to both Lorrie and Al, they proactively made and fostered friendships when here and continue to see many of the friends made years ago...both ex staff and students, people such as John Smith, John Morgan, Kevin Styring, Grant Walters and Angela Dimattina, Val Reilly and Jan Brodrick. Grant was instrumental in introducing the alternative Year 11, together with Frank Chamberlain. This was an early precursor to VCAL.



Al with Br Bill Dillon at the 65th Anniversary Lunch



Al with Leon Magree (Alumnus 1954) at the 65th Anniversary Lunch

Retirement. Al retired in 2001 however stayed on doing CRT (relief teaching) for a few years. He has never really lost touch with Marcellin and attends many of the reunions that the Foundation organises every year.

Al would like to take this opportunity to thank the Marist Brothers for the chance to meet a wonderful group of people; staff, students and parents. They gave him great support through real hard times and certainly enhanced his life for more than half of it.



Al and Tony Box

PIVOTING WITH COVID

JOSEPH VARGETTO

MR BIANCO, HIGH ST, KEW

Joseph Vargetto is the parent of two Marcellin boys in Years 7 and 11. He owns and manages two restaurants, Mister Bianco (named after a town in Sicily) in Kew and Massi Osteria in the city, and is a committed supporter of the Foundation.

As soon as Covid hit this year, Joe was on the front foot, pivoting Mister Bianco to become a take away and delivery service instead of an upmarket Sicilian dining experience.

Prior to this, we had discussed running some cooking classes for anyone in the community who were interested. Joe is very keen on everyone being in touch with food and cooking and knowing what is healthy and in season to assist with budgeting. When he was growing up he learnt many skills, especially pasta making from his mother who had learnt from her mother.

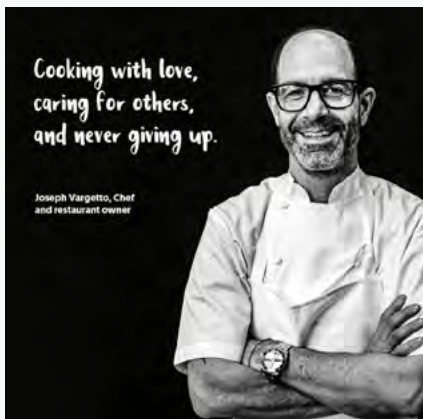
He has worked with many well known chefs, completing his apprenticeship at Melbourne's iconic Florentino's restaurant. He then worked in Italy at the 3 starred Gaultiero Marchesi before heading back to Melbourne to work at Langtons and The Venetian and Number 8 Restaurant at Crown.

He owned and operated Oyster and Mezzo restaurants in the city before opening Mister Bianco.

This was Joseph's Fathers Day 2020 (from his Instagram post) "Fathers Day for me went something like this: A huge day for our proud community restaurant, Mister Bianco. I am very proud I was able to cook for you and provide a little food joy. It started at 8.00am making hot Sicilian Doughnuts, Rhubarb and Chocolate Cannoli and our original Coffee Cart. Then delivery of over 250 Fathers Day meal boxes to celebrate all the amazing Dads. Then from midday we sold 150 Truffle Arancini from our window, our Sicilian sausage sizzle 200 lamb and marjoram sausages for our beautiful community plus a tank of Spritz for some thirsty amazing people. It's been a tough day but I love what I do and thank you. A big ISO hug to all our fabulous hard working staff and our guests. Thank you for your support and continued words of encouragement. I'm very grateful for the opportunity and positive smiles through your masks."

As well as going all out for Fathers Day, Mister Bianco has reinvented itself as "The Italian Job" and involves him driving bulk Italian staples such as lasagnes, fresh sauces and pastas right to your door in a Mini Cooper.

Many of our Marcellin families have been affected by COVID and the implications it has had on how businesses can conduct themselves. We acknowledge the hardship this has caused and hope that time will ensure a renewed energy and success. In this edition of the magazine, we focus on a few of our families who have pivoted their businesses in these strange times.



They also are providing a menu of delicious foods which you can pick up and take home to eat.

Over the lock down time, Joe has also created special menus for various different occasions such as Easter, and has now extended his services to cover the Mornington Peninsula. Congratulations Joe on being proactive, staying positive and hopefully coming out of Covid even more successful than before. We hope you get a break soon!

SCOTT PICKETT

ESTELLE, MATILDA, ST CRISPIN/LUPO, PASTORE

Scott is a current Marcellin parent and a generous supporter providing prize vouchers from his restaurants.

What made you decide to become a chef?

I started working as a kitchen hand as my after school job when I was 15. It was at a local winery in South Australia. It didn't take me long to fall in love with the energy of the kitchen, what I call the "stainless steel asylum!" I finished the dishes quickly each night so I

could start food prepping, built up my hours and eventually decided to leave school to start an apprenticeship full time.

How long have you owned your restaurants and what are they called? How would you describe what type of restaurant they are?

We are now in our tenth year at Estelle in Northcote which is incredible. Saint Crispin/Lupo is 7 years old, Matilda just turned 3. We've also more recently added Pickett's Deli and Pastore.

The food we cook would probably be called Modern Australian. Estelle tends to have smaller, fancier dishes, Matilda is wood fired and there are more shared mains. Lupo has more of an Italian influence. Pastore is wood fired with an Italian influence.

I know that your restaurants are all successful, produce delicious food and are well respected in your industry. How hard was it to get to that stage and how hard was it to maintain your 'name' prior to Covid?

It takes a lot of work. My cooking skills have come from over 30 years of training by some of the best chefs in Australia and overseas. Most weeks over those years I have worked 70-90 hours. To run a successful restaurant however you need to be more than a strong cook. Something that as a twenty-something chef full of bravado I didn't fully appreciate.

You need a great team around you, you need to know your market and believe in your product. You need to be able to run the business side of things- invoices, payroll, suppliers, bills, banks- or afford to pay someone else to do it for you. You need to keep up to date with food trends, local produce, seasons, menus.. the list goes on. In Melbourne, you also need to keep evolving. I've evolved as a person and chef as do my restaurants. Melbournians love the next new thing. It's a very competitive market. In Europe, some restaurants have been the same with the same menu for 10 years and they're still full every night.

It's exciting as a young chef when you get recognition and feel like you've "made it". It only begins there though. You have to constantly be on top of everything to maintain your name and brand.

When the first Covid restrictions were enforced in March what was your initial feeling? Did you immediately decide to switch to take away/delivery or did you first think that it might all go away soon?

Initially I was really worried. I went home and told my wife that I wasn't sure whether we would survive this. Thankfully the bank's

“ **But I thought- Buggar it. We’re in a pandemic and I can cook whatever I want.** ”



deferring of loan repayments and the government’s jobkeeper allowed us to keep our heads above water.

We decided to get onto takeaway quickly. My brother-in-law overseas told us what the restaurants over there were doing and we knew we had to get onto it. We actually started takeaway while we still had dine in customers.

Once the decision was made to ‘pivot’ and change the way you deliver food, how long did it take to get up and running?

I think we had it up in 1-2 weeks. The food side was pretty simple. I knew I wanted to offer one dish that I could cook myself (at this stage I wasn’t sure if we’d be able to employ anyone else) that was yummy, and more homely food than what we normally did. The administration side was more complicated. We had to contact an online order platform and set it all up. Daily changes to the menu was a bit of administration work.

I was doing a daily update in Instagram stories to keep customers informed. It was silly and it was fun - I think it was what kept me going in those weeks! It was liberating not having to worry about the critics, media, hats and all the superfluous part of the industry and just concentrate on basic, tasty cooking again.

Have you had to let staff go? If yes, how many? What do you feel about our international workers and the fact that they’ve received no Govt support? Have you been able to assist any directly or with other support?

We were able to keep all our permanent staff which was very lucky. Everyone who is eligible is on jobkeeper. They are earning less and doing less hours than usual. We have several international chefs who we have been able to keep on thanks to the takeaway. Their hours have also reduced and now reduced further as the takeaway hasn’t been as busy in Lockdown 2.0.

All the (approximately 40) casuals had to go unfortunately. Some I know have been doing cleaning jobs and some are living with their parents. It’s tough out there.

What exactly have you done to change your business and how have you implemented strategies?

We moved from a 100% dine-in experience with excellent service in beautiful surroundings to takeaway food in boxes. It’s a big change. You need to think, prep and cook differently. It took the chefs a bit of getting used to.

We have started with Providoor. A finish cooking at home delivery service from Melbourne’s top restaurants.

We are also doing some cooking class dinners ourselves.

How successful has this pivot been?

The first lockdown was busy and we were able to keep paying staff and pay back some suppliers which was great. This time it’s been a bit tougher. For everyone from all reports. People aren’t sure when this is all going to end so are more financially conscious. Also I think the novelty of takeaway has worn off a little.

How long do you think you personally can sustain business as it is now? The whole restaurant industry?

We have to keep going. We’ll keep adapting and changing as much as we need to to try and bring in some revenue. I don’t want to tell my international chefs who’ve been with me for years, that they don’t have a job anymore and therefore no means for an income.

Some restaurants will definitely go, some already have. Hopefully the good ones stick around. I’m hoping that when this is all over it will be like Christmas for 6 months! It might not happen like that, but what can I say? I’m an optimist.

What would be your favourite dish that customers order now?

I did a freestyle Thai Red Duck Curry early on that we’ve done a bit that’s yummy and popular. Also a Chicken Parma with Truffle. Things that I could have never done in the restaurants before because it wasn’t our style

or off brand. But I thought- Buggar it. We’re in a pandemic and I can cook whatever I want.

BART CRESCIA

FARM VIGANO

Bart Crescia is the owner of Farm Vigano, a restaurant and function destination in the Plenty Valley Gorge. Bart is the father of Lorenzo in Year 10 and has always supported the Marcellin Foundation donating raffle vouchers to Farm Vigano to assist in fundraising to support the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund.

In ‘normal’ times, Farm Vigano is extremely busy catering for weddings, engagements, birthdays, family events, corporate events, in fact any type of gathering required by the customer. Their big business is weddings, and the venue is able to supply different sized spaces to suit the many different requirements and group sizes. On top of that, Farm Vigano is also a beautiful restaurant catering for everything from dates for two up to big groups who enjoy the amazing views and surroundings.



Bart has owned and run Farm Vigano for eight years, starting the business from scratch, beginning with the original homestead house that was there and building up to have the reputation and success it has today. Bart originally began his working life working in an Accounting firm and has a background in commerce, but in his words, he “hated it” and resigned after five years. He then travelled extensively overseas, indulging his love of eating in different restaurants and gaining insights and experiences into the hospitality world.



PIVOTING WITH COVID



On returning to Australia Bart was advising a friend who wanted to invest in a food business. After much conversation and consultation, the friend asked Bart to join him saying “let’s give it a go”. Thus the well known and well reviewed pizzeria Elounge in Richmond was born. Having returned from Italy, Bart was able to make ‘proper’ Italian pizzas that were woodfired and a bit better than the ubiquitous Aussie with ham and pineapple!

This restaurant lasted for 14 years before Bart left to set up a well known Yarra Valley destination, Zonzo. All that was there was a milking shed. Today it buzzes every weekend

with day trippers and weddings as well as many other functions such as 21sts. Bart then sold this business to his Head Chef and headed off to set up his next challenge: Farm Vigano.

Like our other restaurateurs interviewed, the minute Covid hit this year, Farm Vigano pivoted immediately, with Bart’s main aim being to keep the brand alive. He was very keen that they didn’t give the impression that they were closing up and that the business wasn’t lucrative. Having weddings as a main part of the business, they have been inundated with worried couples who had already paid deposits wondering when they will be able to go ahead with their ceremonies. They have a lot of goodwill sitting there and need to protect this. A lot of their office work is spent consulting with and assisting brides with their planning.

And again like our other restaurants, Farm Vigano has switched to providing take away and online deliveries which has meant a reinvention of the kitchen, organising how

it will work, procuring acceptable take away containers and delivery platforms. They have also set up a kiosk which is selling foccacias, coffees and sweet treats. So customers can take a walk in the extensive grounds and then purchase from the cart. Pizzas have proven to be the most popular take away food they offer.

Bart has found that a lot of their staff have resigned with Covid due to a lot of downtime, and he also feels that the Jobkeeper payments to staff who were only working a couple of casual shifts a week has seen them earning more than normal and unenthusiastic to actually do any shifts now. However his most important goal is to keep busy and sane and keep their name ‘out there’ and in people’s minds so that when hospitality is back, they will be able to get back to normal as soon as possible.

We wish Bart, his family and Farm Vigano the best of luck, and thank them for the continued support of the Foundation.

JOSH BROWNLIE

Bulleen Screens

Josh is a member of the Marcellin Business Network and attends the majority of associated events. He has an entrepreneurial streak and decided to purchase Bulleen Screens over 10 years ago when he was looking for a small to medium business (SME). He has worked to establish and grow the brand and now has a successful business with a much larger customer base than he started with.

With Stage 4 COVID restrictions (and the fact that the rules are forever changing), he has had to adjust continually to comply. The initial edict that only 5 tradies could be on site at a time, and that a tradie could only be on one site during Stage 4 meant that businesses such as Bulleen Screens were severely hampered, given it is the type of business that visits a number of sites in a day to install doors and screens. Rule clarifications mean that his installers can now go to 3 sites a week each, one site per day, but this is a 95% reduction from normal, so visits are restricted to only the most urgent requirements for the most important customers. Luckily for Josh, a major window company had coronavirus go through their



factory, so his team temporarily manufactured for them.

Josh has made use of JobKeeper. He initially had 18 staff, but is now down to 13. Fortunately, Josh already had some new plans in sight as COVID first hit and he has been able to follow up with these enabling him to continue growing.

A trip to Malaysia in January to take up on an offer to represent an aluminium mill has netted its first significant customer in Australia in recent weeks. He then travelled to Turkey in February to follow up on purchasing a retractable screen manufacturing business. It meant he got back just in time before international flights were cancelled though he did have to self isolate for two weeks. The first wave of COVID saw the brakes put on that opportunity, but it was too good to pass up, so after a 2 month delay, the purchase was completed at the beginning of June. He feels the new business is going ok in the circumstances, however because it is in Craigieburn, one of the ‘hot spots’ for COVID, it has been a difficult beginning. Luckily, the customer base is national, so has continued to operate and ship out using couriers.

In typical Josh fashion, not content with a couple of things on the go, he also started a software business with a partner that has exciting global possibilities.

The first product involves automation of student enrolment, fee management, general finances and audit compliance for independent schools, but the main goal is their potentially ‘game changing’ database technology.

And finally he has also agreed in principle to take the rights in Australia to supply mesh suitable for windows and doors in bushfire areas. Currently any new build with a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating, must have mesh made out of metal which is very difficult to work with. This new non-metal material has the potential to be required on 40% of new residential constructions.

Meanwhile, Josh deals with the ever changing landscape in relation to his original business. The going is tough at the moment but he is thankful for Federal and State Government support. He believes the businesses are solid and is confident he will weather this time and only get better. He is currently being considered to supply a massive military project, which if successful will contribute to longevity

Good luck to Josh and all our other Marcellin businesses doing it tough this year.

“
He has an
entrepreneurial streak
”

“ | **Mr Corney has been instrumental in his tireless efforts supporting my passion for the Chinese language** | ”

ALEX DE CESARIS

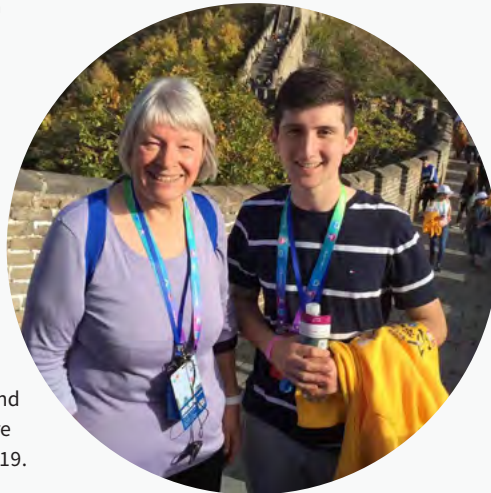
Current Marcellin Student

I have been very fortunate in my time at Marcellin to have exceptional teachers who have facilitated my love of learning Chinese and supported me in my experiences with overseas competitions.

My most memorable experience was in Year 9 when I took part in the VYLC (Victorian Young Leaders to China) program - China Immersion Experience and the Chinese Bridge competition which were both held in October and November of 2019. These experiences were shortly followed by the month-long Shanghai I&C (Industry & Commerce Foreign Language College) exchange in December. These were the most rewarding and defining moments in the developmental journey of my Chinese Language skills, as in-country immersion is an entirely unparalleled method of language learning.

I enjoy participating in Academic competitions and to date I have received:

- High distinction in 2016 Big Science Competition



- Participation in Da Vinci Decathlon 2018
- Aurecon Bridge Building competition 2017
- Aurecon Bridge Building competition 2018
- Anzac Mateship Award Nomination 2019

I have been lucky to have the support and encouragement from both my family and from the staff at Marcellin College and other mentors. Mr Corney has been instrumental in his tireless efforts supporting my passion for the Chinese language and I would also like

to thank Miss Chapple for accompanying me to China for the duration of the competition.

In the future, I would like to combine my passion in Chinese and STEM by getting involved in a science-related field of study at uni while possibly doing a double degree. This would allow me to seek employment in not only Australia but also China when I graduate.

JULIE REILLY

Julie Reilly attended Marcellin in 1978 as one of 11 girls studying for the then HSC. She was the only girl studying humanities having moved to Marcellin, not from Our Lady of Mercy as a pure science student, but when her mother, Val Reilly, joined the staff to teach English and Italian. She has fond memories of the school and has maintained the connection through her mother, including engaging Al Parkin as chemistry tutor for her eldest daughter when she was studying for her VCE. She was guest speaker at Marcellin's Mother's Day breakfast in 2019.

Julie is now CEO of the Australians Investing in Women, a non-profit organisation that works to increase philanthropic and social investment in women and girls.

Before moving into philanthropy, Julie's diverse experience included Federal and State Government managerial and project roles, media, major events management, music and television production.

She has coordinated international OECD conferences for both Federal and State governments, won an Excellence Award for her work with the National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity at Swinburne University of Technology and advocated effectively in the media to ensure better outcomes for women personally affected by breast cancer.

Julie was named in Pro Bono Australia's inaugural Impact 25 Awards in 2014, celebrating the social sector's most influential people and was proud to see Women Donors recognised as a Finalist in the 2015 HESTA Community Sector Social Impact Awards.

She has studied Philanthropy and Social Investment and has served on the Board of the Australian Childhood Foundation. Her current Board roles include the Perpetual Foundation, MECCA M-Power Advisory and Canadian based G(irls) 20, a leadership development program that ensures that girls voices are heard by global leaders at the Annual G20 meetings.



In 2017 Julie was named in the Herald Sun's 50 Women You Should Know and the same year was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and in 2018 travelled to the US, UK and Europe to study global strategies for increasing giving to women and girls.

With her husband, Lindsay Field, she co-produced Myer's annual Spirit of Christmas CD which, over 25 years, raised over 8.5m for charity. Julie is most proud of co-producing two intelligent, independent, capable, compassionate daughters.

OUR YEAR 12 CAPTAINS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF YEAR 12 IN LOCKDOWN



GIACOMO CARBONE

College Captain



What did you find most challenging during lockdown?

It's been hard for all of us with such a dramatic lifestyle shift but the biggest impact for me was actually the way it affected my school work and motivation. I found myself with all this time yet no drive to use it for any good for the first while. It took a whole conscious mindset to discipline myself for me to actually move forward!!

Did you find your teachers became 'creative' in the delivery of their lessons?

Haha this is a funny one because it's actually so true! Not that I'm surprised, because I already knew that my teachers were great but I was extremely humbled by the work they put in towards making sure that all of us students were having the best education we could despite the situation. They learnt to use tools like teams, One Note and all these other great resources which made online learning actually quite enjoyable... if it weren't for the freaky social situation I think I could easily have thrived just as well in online learning as I do at school.

What were the good things about the Home Learning Program?

For me, since before isolation I'd been so busy all of the time, I found it peaceful to have some genuine alone time. It was a good chance for me to reflect on myself and gather my thoughts... a resetting phase of sorts... but it didn't take long for me to miss people very much.

Do you think it has changed the way you learn / study?

I definitely have an immensely increased appreciation for the work that teachers put in. I don't think I'd realised before just how much they care. I had known they try hard, but the depth of their selflessness really has come to reveal itself to me since this has all happened. I'm very grateful to be able to have the privilege of being back at school and being as lucky as I am to be a part of a school... let alone one as supportive of Marcellin.

Given that you have lived through an unprecedented Year 12 experience, what have you learned, and as Student Leaders, what advice would you pass on to your younger peers?

As a leader within this wonderful community, it's been absolutely amazing to see the closeness that has been maintained within Marcellin through this struggle. It really shows the power of family spirit which is at the core of our school. I haven't experienced a sense of culture anywhere else like I have at Marcellin, and the way that all of the student leaders collaborated and worked to keep our school and the houses close despite the distance was an inspiration to me. If there were anything I could say to the members of our family, it would be to be inspired by the hard work and kindness that exists in our school in our leaders, teachers and oftentimes many of those who do good quietly... we're all brothers here and I really hope that this legacy of strength through adversity and appreciation for family spirit is something that stays in Marcellin forever.

PAT LAVERY

College Vice Captain



What did you find most challenging during lockdown?

Motivation was a major challenge; staying passionate about school work during lockdown presented its difficulties, and the need for increased self-accountability took some getting used to. However, working at home became easier as time progressed and I adjusted to the new environment.

Did you find your teachers became 'creative' in the delivery of their lessons?

Teachers were forced to change the way that they had been teaching for their entire career, and mine adjusted very well to the different circumstances. The way they delivered a lesson changed to be more streamlined and direct, and a heavier emphasis on technology use allowed them to explore different ways of teaching that they may not have been able to do otherwise.

“Appreciate your school and your mates, and take everything as an opportunity to make yourself better – Pat Lavery”



What were the good things about the Home Learning Program?

Definitely the added sleep-ins. They were the best. The change in timetable was a positive, as there was more time where I could do my own study due to shortened school hours. Also, Sleep-ins.

Do you think it has changed the way you learn / study?

I've definitely learned how to be more independent, which will really help me during university and towards the end of this year. I didn't change the way I studied, but I learnt to become more accountable for myself.

Given that you have lived through an unprecedented Year 12 experience, what have you learned, and as Student Leaders, what advice would you pass on to your younger peers?

Take everything as it comes, and learn to deal with different situations. I think this whole situation has taught everyone to appreciate the good times, as they're not forever, and nobody knows when they might end.

My advice to the younger boys is pretty simple; appreciate your school and your mates, and take everything as an opportunity to make yourself better. Hopefully you learnt something about yourself during the lockdowns that you can use to improve yourself, or picked up some new skills or hobbies. If you're struggling, that's alright, it's normal. Your mates will be there for you, and remember, there's always positives in life - at least

you weren't in year twelve this year....



HARRISON FREE

College Vice Captain



What did you find most challenging during lockdown?

For me the most challenging thing during lockdown was not being able to participate in the social aspects of the community, things like Sport, Parties, seeing friends and being able to go out and see my grandparents and other family members are all things I missed deeply, not only are they the things that I love doing, but also the things that give me an out from the constant study and pressures of year 12, coming through the early year levels all the way to year 11, teachers and parents always talk to you about the need for balance, for myself, not being able to have those outlets has made getting down to study more challenging.

Did you find your teachers became 'creative' in the delivery of their lessons?

The variety of the teaching formats and styles amongst teachers was really extreme, not to say that one way is better than any of the others but all teachers had their own perspective on how they attacked the home learning program and they all gave 100%

effort. All the boys are extremely grateful for what the teachers have done through this time, all the risks they have taken just to be at school but also their efforts to not only teach the boys during the home learning program, but also being there to support them and their wellbeing through what has been an extremely difficult time.

What were the good things about the Home Learning Program?

Being able to spend some quality time with my family has been the highlight of lockdown, as a busy household with games and trainings continuously being attended to throughout the week. Having time to slow down and play some card games or board games has been really good.

Do you think it has changed the way you learn / study?

Yes and no, the way I have studied has been similar but the way I have learnt has been a bit different. At school, once a class finishes you have to quickly leave to be able to get to your next class, however after Home learning classes the ability to access teachers for clarification or assistance is much easier as you don't have to rush off to the next class.

Given that you have lived through an unprecedented Year 12 experience, what have you learned, and as Student Leaders, what advice would you pass on to your younger peers?

This year has not only been a tough year for just year 12s, lots of people are struggling through this time period. But we are getting through it, there is light at the end of the tunnel, I encourage as many people in the community, younger students and others to look for the brightness and happiness. Even when you don't want to believe it's there, it always is.

MBN during 2020 Lockdown Restrictions.

2020 has been a year like no other. With the vast majority of people working from home, significant job losses and many small businesses brought to the brink, the need to stay connected has never been greater.

The Marcellin Business Network is a great avenue to connect. Financial members have access to our series of Webinars and Podcasts providing advice, tips and commentary on managing your business in the world of Covid.

Mark Cooper from PM Eleven: Spoke to the challenges of being in business during Covid and the need to pivot to stay in the game.

Mark Rice from The Gild Group and Chris Dimattina from Sovereign Financial: Discussed the implications of Covid on the Financial Sector

Scott Davies from Technique Construction and Adrian Gasparini from Woodridge Homes: Scott and Adrian discussed the need to plan ahead in the building industry given that events such as Covid can be felt post 12 months due to previously commissioned work.

Anthony Caffry from Bronzeworks: Anthony discussed the beginning and development of his business, and his plans for the future.

Mark Bouw from Mark Bouw Group: Mark has established a formidable reputation as a management consultant and discussed how he can assist in applying for Government grants.

Carly Kluge from Bendigo Bank: Carly addressed questions about how we choose our bank.

Damian Menzies from Choice Career Services: Damian talked about how we manage our

different world and how businesses can assess their needs. He also addressed the importance of our mental health.

Patrick Hamblin/Matt Frost - Old Collegians: Discussed the importance of maintaining connections through channels such as Old Collegians, sporting clubs especially in relation to employment.

Damian Menzies, Brett Guest, James Delahunty: A discussion on how best to deal with and tackle career disruption.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



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E melad@blueskyaccounting.com.au
W www.blueskyaccounting.com.au



Town Planning and Land Surveying services to the development industry. Contact: Stephen McCarthy (Alumnus1789)
T 03 9853 3352
E steve.m@terrainconsulting.com.au
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Chartered Accountants – accounting, taxation, superannuation, wealth management and business advisory. Contact Christian Beltrame (current parent)
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RESUBSCRIBED MEMBERS

Thank you to our members who have re-subscribed for 2020-2021 during these challenging times:
Mullins Advisory Gerard Mullins

The Gild Group Mark Rice
PM Eleven Mark Cooper
Wide Awake Wellness John Toomey
Mark Bouw Group Pty Ltd Mark Bouw

Jellis Craig Real Estate Pat Dennis
Bulleen Screens Josh Brownlie
Woodridge Homes Adrian Gasparini
Carbone Master Tailors Kellie Carbone

“ Marcellin Business Network has been faced with the challenge of cancelling all face-to-face events. ”

	<p>Helping businesses get their accounting systems sorted. We are accountants for accountants! Contact Geraldine Mirabella (past parent) T 0424 420 888 E geraldine@refineandintegrate.com.au W refineandintegrate.com.au</p>		<p>Leading football club in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA). 98 years young, 7 mens and womens' teams. Contact Peter Simpson (Alumnus1979) E peter.simpson@scotch.vic.edu.au W oldscotchfc.com.au</p>
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THEO EVERSTEYN

Every moment a gift

“

I had an excellent education that stood me in good stead for my life. I was very fortunate.

”

Theo is a dedicated supporter of the work of the Marcellin Foundation and generous contributor to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. As an adult he has developed an awareness that his parents must have received some sort of financial assistance to enable him to attend Marcellin. He remains grateful for the opportunity that he was given and knows that it set him up for life.

Theo's life journey has not been short of challenges and difficult times, but this is not the view of the world that he will ever give you. In his very calm and measured demeanour, he will always tell you the story with a 'silver lining' that is grounded in gratitude and compassion. Together Theo and his wife Irene have led a life of humble service. One of Irene's favourite quotes was from Ignatius Loyala: "Teach me true generosity....to give and not count the cost"



Born in the Netherlands in 1941, Theo is the eldest of eight children. In 1948, at nearly three years of age, his younger brother Alphonse died from meningitis. A year later, Theo adopted the name "Alphonse" for his Confirmation name. "I was pretty pleased about that" remembers Theo.

Early life in The Netherlands saw tough times for Theo and his family. Over the period of 1944-45, The Netherlands endured a very harsh winter yielding meagre crops. This, along with an imposed embargo on food transport during Nazi occupation, saw 22,000 people starved to death. Theo's Opa was a baker and this proved to be a Godsend during this time. Theo recalls that after he turned three it was his job to pick up their half a loaf of bread for the family each morning from his Opa's shop. "Later my Oma reminded me that sometimes I would ask her why we couldn't have a bigger loaf of bread."

Trees disappeared overnight to provide fuel, many people survived on a soup dish made of flower bulbs, called "Bolle Soup". Bomber squadrons commenced flying daylight raids and were a breathtaking sight. Despite all of this, Theo says, "I only have fond memories of our lives in Holland."

During these times of war, Theo remembers a family close to them sheltering a Jewish family for the entirety of the war. One day, his father got caught up in a raid (Razia) where young men were being rounded up by the Germans to go and work in German factories. "Dad and Brinckhuisen were picked up but were at the back of the line. As they all went around a corner with the German soldiers in front, Dad and his mate made a run for it. Dad with his uniform on jumped on a tricycle tray bike, put his mate under the tarpaulin and cycled back to The Hague."

In 1950, when Theo was nine years old, he and his family moved to Australia. He wasn't really sure why his family made the move, but he believes that his parents wanted a better life for Theo and his siblings.

After arriving in Australia, Theo's father worked as a gardener and maintenance man at a convent for the Sisters of St Joseph in Kew that also served as a retirement home for wealthy elderly women. There was a stable on the property which Theo's father converted to their family home. "It consisted of two large bedrooms, a kitchen and an outside flush toilet. There was no bathroom. We enjoyed living there and particularly enjoyed the gardens," remembers Theo. His mother also worked washing and ironing clothes for single

men staying at the Dutch Hostel in Kew.

Sacred Heart Primary School in Kew was Theo's start to education in Australia. Having a shock of red hair, Theo's mother thought that she needed to prepare him for being teased at school. She sent him off on his first day with wise words; "Beter rood haar op goode grond dan zwart haar op 'n eezel's kont" translated to English means, "Better red hair on good ground than black hair on a donkey's arse". Funnily enough, Theo was never picked on for his red hair.

Encouraged by the Genazzano nuns at Sacred Heart, Theo moved to Marcellin in Grade 6 for his secondary education. Theo was a conscientious student and even back then understood the opportunity that was afforded to him. He made many friends and enjoyed playing sport, particularly the trips to Assumption College in Kilmore to play football. It was here that his wife-to-be, Irene (a Kilmore Girl), first set eyes on him. "I reckon she was leaning over the fence and had me marked!" Theo also represented the College at tennis.

Theo's love of football got him involved in the formation of the Ringwood Catholic Rovers (now the North Ringwood Football Club) in 1962 when he was secretary of the Ringwood Y C W. He chose St. Kilda jumpers and they became known as the "Saints". Theo also loved playing Tennis and is hoping to make a come back when he turns 80.

Theo left Marcellin at the end of year 10 and started work with Atlas Insurance Company as a Cadet Accountant in 1958. In 1960 he became a Chartered Accountancy student at A.H.G. Clarke & Co, graduating as a Chartered Accountant in May 1965. In 1973 he was admitted to partnership. Theo specialised in manufacturing and distribution. This led Theo to complete post graduate courses in Cost Accounting and Business Administration. His career took him to diverse locations such as Europe, China and the US. Overall, Theo was passionate about solving problems and supporting business development and simply loved the sound and smell of the machinery on the factory floor. He retired in 2006 and joined a number of boards as Director. Theo says that one of his rewarding tasks was to mentor students working with him and see them progress through their professional careers.

I'm sure most of us remember the date that we met our partners, but I think only the best of us could recall the actual time. "On Friday the 2nd of November 1962, at 7.50pm, I'll never forget the moment I met Irene at the AGM of the Ringwood Catholic Tennis Club. Once I'd met

“ Theo is a dedicated supporter of the work of the Marcellin Foundation and generous contributor to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. ”

Irene, I was smitten. She was just so beautiful, there was no one else like her.”

“We fell in love easily. It was the first time I had experienced romantic love. It wasn’t long before I felt we had known each other for a long time.”



During their courtship, Theo and Irene loved to dance, going as far as Wandin to Springvale and Ringwood YCW to attend dances. On the day after their first meeting, Theo took Irene to a Jazz club in St Kilda. “We danced together all night, it felt like we had the floor to ourselves. The song we remember most from that night was “Hava Nageila” a Jewish number, meaning ‘Let us rejoice’. We’ve been rejoicing ever since.”

Theo and Irene were married on 24 April 1965 and with each year that passed, their relationship grew and blossomed. They welcomed their first child, Michael in 1966 followed by Chris, Janet and Kate. Like with Theo’s family when he was growing up, this generation of Eversteins also shared much love and warmth in their family unit. The family was rocked in 2008 when a policeman knocked on their door to tell them that Chris was killed in a motorbike accident. Theo says, “It was comforting to know that a nurse, called Lisa, held his hand as he died”. Over the years their family grew to eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren the last of which a baby girl Estelle Irene was born this April.

This strong family unit was bonded by loving parents who lived by example – caring for all those around them. Theo had (and still has) incredible admiration for Irene’s kindness and compassion and non-judgemental nature. She was very conscious of giving and contributing to the community and understood the importance of working with people from all walks of life. Voluntary work was incredibly important to Irene – something she encouraged Theo to do so that he could see the world outside of his ‘corporate bubble’. To Irene’s great pleasure Theo did take on voluntary work which he has continued through his life, mostly using his accounting skills as a Treasurer/ Auditor. Some of Theo’s longer-term roles were at the Alzheimers Association Victoria for 9 years, St. Vincent de Paul for 13 years, Parish Accountant at St Clements, Bulleen for 7 years, Treasurer/Auditor for various tennis clubs for 20 years. A shorter role but challenging directorship was with Coolgaree, an Aboriginal company based on Palm island. But even today, with his own health issues, he continues to volunteer with St Vincent de Paul and tutors his grandson in extended Maths (over zoom).

Theo and Irene lived a lifetime of mutual devotion learning that keeping an open mind and a listening ear can make you a better kind of human. Their love for their family, travels and adventures, triumphs and tribulations, and the life lessons they learned in partnership all contributed to their generous and kind natures.

Very sadly, Irene was diagnosed with MND in September 2015. “For Irene, MND was not the main game, her focus was to enjoy life with family, friends, including holidays, films, books, trips to Studley Park Boat House and the football” says Theo.

“Even though they were sad times, it was really a time of profound unconditional love, the depth of which I had never experienced before, as well as the joy of being at home with Irene. There was this feeling of there being just this one spirit between us. Being able to look after Irene and the good Lord keeping my own prostate cancer in check until after Irene died were two of God’s greatest gifts to me.”



“In the last three years Irene did not complain once, seeing MND as just part of her life and was ready to go on to the next life. It was just simply a joy to be with Irene my whole life, with the last three years being no different – every moment being a gift.”

“We were a great team, between us there was a oneness in spirit, she will forever be my lifelong best friend, wife, unconditional love, and trusted confidante.”

Irene is someone that I wish I had the opportunity to have met. Her devotion to family, community and the greater cause were part of the fabric of her life not just passing whims. Her influence on Theo is apparent and her legacy lives on through him. Theo’s generous spirit of giving and the way in which he sees everything as a gift is a beautiful reflection of his adored Irene.

Theo continues to keep busy with Tai Chi, swimming, gym, St Vincent de Paul work, his house and garden and spending time with family and friends (when Covid restrictions permit). “I have been fortunate and am grateful for all the help I have received from our three children – Michael, Janet and Kate. I see them each week as well as my regular contact with my grandchildren, great-grandchildren and siblings”.



“ We were a great team, between us there was a oneness in spirit, she will forever be my lifelong best friend, wife, unconditional love, and trusted confidante ”

GIVING IS MORE THAN RECEIVING

JOHN DITCHBURN

While many within the Marcellin College Alumni community know the name Ditchburn, few would connect it with John Ditchburn. John's cousins, Peter(1958), Michael (Alumnus1962) and Paul (Alumnus1966) attended Marcellin College in its early days. John however never attended Marcellin, nor has he been to any Marcellin community events. So why is it that at 85 years old, John wishes to leave part of the residual in his Will to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund?

As is often the case, there is a rich story underpinning what has brought John Ditchburn to this point.

John's story traces back to the early 1940s when, as a young boy, he commenced his schooling at Marist Brothers East Brunswick (which closed 2009). One of his first teachers was 19 year old Br. Austin Stevens who was just out from the Novitiate at Mittagong

and started teaching in 1942.

John's parents maintained close connections with the Marist Brothers - driving them to various places, including to work and for trips to the country. Many of John's stories relate to a time from which he is the last surviving eyewitness. He recalls the Marist Brothers working hard, living frugally, and supporting him with his education.

"Br Matthias would come with us when we went hunting. He would sit under a tree, roll a smoke, wait until two rabbits came into his line of vision, then shoot, and kill both with one shot..."

Growing up in inner city Melbourne in the 1950s, John had many close connections through his work and interest in radios and transmitters. His closest friendship was with another Marist Old Boy, Matt Walsh. Matt

“
John determined that within this framework he felt reassured in leaving a sum in his Will to the bursary fund.
”

sadly is no longer with us. However in his time he was a highly regarded solicitor, serving as President of the Law Institute of Victoria and also as a member of many working committees. His son Mark (Alumnus1981), attended Marcellin College in Bulleen and remains close with John. The two were discussing all things Marist recently, and Mark let John know that there was a Marcellin Business Network and also a proper bursary fund with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. John determined that within this framework he felt reassured in leaving a sum in his Will to the bursary fund. Our community thanks John, and people like him, who so generously give to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund.

At the Marcellin Foundation our vision is to uphold the work of St Marcellin Champagnat, “to make Jesus Christ known and loved”. St Marcellin Champagnat believed that we need to look after the young, especially the most neglected and the poor. By providing education to the poor, we offer a way to break the cycle of poverty and provide opportunities of hope. For so many boys in the surrounding Marcellin catchment (which also includes one of the poorest suburbs in Melbourne), a Marcellin education is out of the question, that is, without the assistance of the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. We know that our Old Collegians, parents (past and present) and friends of Marcellin are keen to support us in providing these opportunities, so we invite you to take part with one of these options to give:

LAVALLA GIVING CIRCLE YOUR GIFT IN WILL

We are very excited to welcome Franz Tursi, our very first member, to the Lavalla Giving Circle. Thank you Franz.

Like Franz, after you make provisions for your family and other important people in your life, we invite you to consider a bequest, or gift-in-will. This is one of the most meaningful gifts that you can give. No matter what size, your gift will assist families in need who

otherwise would not be able to afford a Marcellin education.

Please call the Foundation office on (03) 9851 1464 to discuss how you can be part of the Lavalla Giving Circle.

MAJOR DONORS PROGRAM DONATIONS OF \$500 UPWARDS

In 2019 we successfully launched our Major Donors Program with all donations going to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. You are invited to join this generous group of people to provide the Gift of Education to those who otherwise could not afford it.

As a thank you for your gift, you will receive:

- Complimentary entry to all Foundation and our Business Network Events
- Membership to our Major Donors Group which gives you first options on information and events
- March Movie Night (for the ladies only)
- Football Luncheons

- Senior Production
- Canterbury Roaders Lunch
- Marcellin Mothers Luncheon
- Grandparents Day (priority booking as this will be a sell out)
- VIP / Business Network end of year event

If you would like to be one of our Major Donors, please return the Donation Form opposite, or call us on (03)9851 1464

ONCE-OFF/RECURRENT DONATION

If you, like so many others, are bearing the financial burden of running a home and keeping a family, but would still like to

support those who are doing it really tough, we invite you to make a donation that suits you - not us! It might be \$10 fortnight, or \$50 a month or a once off donation when you get your tax refund. It takes a village to bring up a child, and similarly all contributions, no

matter how small, add to the bigger picture.

All donations are tax deductible and come with the wonderful feeling of knowing that your generosity keeps the work of St Marcellin Champagnat alive.

OBITUARIES

Martin Hartnett (Alumnus 1956)
 Benny Salvatore - MOCFC
 Damian Guiney - (Alumnus 1986)

STAY CONNECTED

We remain open to all.

Marcellin Foundation is the central point for our Marcellin Community to engage with. We have pivoted in our engagement in line with changing circumstances of COVID-19 and invite people to call, email or FaceTime us.

We welcome you to connect with us and we can connect you with others within the Marcellin Community. Details on page 2.

Stay well and stay safe.

A MEANINGFUL GIFT

We take this opportunity to say thank you for the support to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. To all our parents, past and present, Old Collegians, our Marcellin staff and Community- we are very grateful for your generosity.

Every donation is a meaningful gift, because it contributes to the possibilities for a boy to attend Marcellin.

You can get more information about how the Marcellin College Foundation is working to assist the College by visiting the Foundation website at foundation@marcellin.vic.edu.au

We invite you all to join us in supporting the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund whichever way you feel most suitable for you, as an individual, family or company.

The Bursary Fund has helped many young men whose families are faced with unprecedented events and as a result of financial hardship they become unable to afford their education at Marcellin. This Bursary fund has offered a life-changing opportunity for them to complete their Marist education at our wonderful College.

You too can make a life-changing difference by donating to the St Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund. All donations are tax deductible so if you have wanted to help a good cause, please consider joining the community in supporting our Bursary Fund.

Your generosity ensures that each year bursaries can be offered, creating a lasting impact for the Marcellin students and their families in most need.

DONORS

Recent contributors

We would like to acknowledge and thank our recent contributors for their kindness and generosity.

- ROBER MAIR
- PETER ALDERSON
- TIM BONNETT
- TREVOR BROWNE
- ENRICO CEMENTON
- BARBARA DABAL
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- ANDERS UHLIG
- NILESH WAGH
- JOHN WALSH
- TROY WATCHORN
- THAI HUNG
- JOHN WONG

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Marcellin Champagnat Bursary Fund.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Option One I wish to make one-off gift of \$ _____

- Cheque – Return this slip with cheque payable to Marcellin College Foundation Ltd
- Credit Card – <https://marcellinfoundation.org.au/donate>
- Direct Deposit – BSB: 063 010 ACCOUNT: 1295 8493 – Reference your full name
- In Person – Call (03) 9851 1464 to make a time to drop in, to make an over the phone payment or to discuss bequests.

Option Two I wish to make a regular instalment of \$ _____

weekly fortnightly monthly

Commencing ____/____/____ please ensure you write a commencement date

Credit Card No.

Cardholder's Name _____ Expiry Date ____/____

Option Three I would like to consider the Lavalla Giving Circle - leaving a gift-in-will.

Please call us to arrange this. Phone (03) 9851 1464

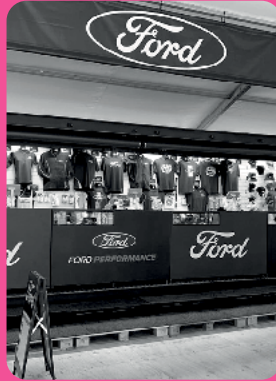
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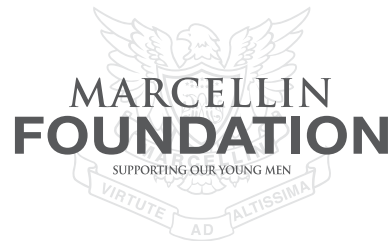
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