

## the Cornerstone

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE **FOUNDATION MAGAZINE** 

**ISSUE 5 AUGUST 2011** 

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

22 AUG

RECTOR'S FOUNDATION
DINNER

1–7 SEPT

SENIOR MOCK EXAMS

4 SEPT

FAMILY MASS 5 PM

5 SEPT

**RECTOR'S FOUNDATION** 

DINNER

13 SEPT RECTOR'S FOUNDATION

DINNER

15 SEPT

OTAGO UNIVERSITY VISIT

27 SEF

RECTOR'S FOUNDATION

DINNER

29 SEPT SPORTS AWARDS DINNER

6 OCT

SPC OLD BOYS' DINNER

25 OCT

TERM 4 BEGINS

1 NOV

RECTOR'S FOUNDATION

DINNER

7 NOV YEAR 13 LEAVERS/PARENT

FUNCTION

SENIOR PRIZEGIVING

8 NOV LEAVERS' MASS

# Successful Foundation Benefit Dinner to become an annual event!



KEY NOTE SPEAKER JOHN ALLEN

THE INAUGURAL ANNUAL FOUNDATION BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION WAS HELD EARLY JULY AND BROUGHT TOGETHER MORE THAN 170 PARENTS, OLD BOYS, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE.

Despite the chilly evening this event was highly successful and the feedback has been most positive, ensuring it will become an annual event on the College calendar.

One of the main objectives of the Foundation is to reconnect people back to the College and it was fantastic to see such a cross section of our wider College community supporting the Foundation and its initiatives.

Foundation Chair Mark McGuinness spoke of the programme the Foundation is working towards, both

in the education and property sectors of the College and the need for this community to consider stepping up and becoming an active part of this ambitious undertaking. Construction of the \$2.5 m Theatre/Quad redevelopment is planned to commence next year which will have an enormous positive impact on all of our students and provide another income stream for the College.

Former All Black Brent (Buck) Anderson from the New Zealand Rugby Football Union enlightened the audience with his 8 point plan on goal setting and achievement interspersed with some rugby anecdotes.

Keynote speaker John Allen, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, delivered a stimulating speech outlining the critical role the Foundation could play in connecting the St Pat's community, why it was important, and how its work programme could benefit generations of young people.

The Foundation was fortunate to attract such high calibre speakers in both Buck Anderson and John Allen and we thank them for their community spirit by taking part in this function.

Both Con Anima and Year 13 orator Alex McKenna showcased some of the College's talent to the crowd, and then auctioneer extraordinaire Mick Robbers guided the audience to partake in robust bidding for some exciting packages. The evening raised over \$22,000 which will go to the Foundation's initiatives. Thanks to all the sponsors, organisations who donated goods, our MC – Old Boy Daniel McHardy, and of course those that came and joined in the celebrations.

Our Foundation Benefit Dinner sponsors were:

Architectus, Athfield Architects, Circuit Systems, Dunning Thornton Consultants, ECL Group, Fratelli, Greenwood Roche Chisnall, Harcourts, LT McGuinness, Willis Bond & Co.









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#### CONTINUES FROM COVER STORY



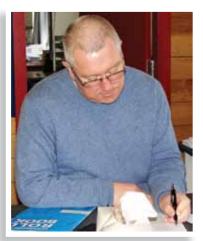
GUESTS SUE & MIKE O'DONNELL, RHONDA CHRISTENSEN & DENNIS SIEFE.



BEVERLEY MAIN AND SARAH BAYLY ARRIVING WITH OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT. FVAN BAYLY.

#### FROM ENGLAND TO ZIMBABWE TO NZ....

IN THIS ISSUE WE INTRODUCE THE COLLEGE'S HEAD OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ANDREW BRENNAN, A LONG SERVING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA WHO FOR SOME YEARS ALSO TAUGHT IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.



Andrew hails from the United Kingdom and joined St Pat's in 1993 as a second year teacher after spending his first year at Lower Hutt's Sacred Heart College. The Rector at the time was Graham Dee and the Head of the Department was Alistair Williams. Andrew has also worked under Department Heads Diane Smith and Jane Holloway, and was himself appointed Assistant Department Head in 1998 followed with his promotion in 2000.

Andrew recalls, "English was my best subject at school. I was never strong in Maths or Science but had a love of reading. By the age of sixteen I got the idea of being an English teacher and went on to study Bachelor of Arts at the University of Leicester.

However when I graduated in 1984, I worked for the Health Service in Middlesex Hospital as Manager of Medical Records. The interest in teaching was still there so after an interview at the Zimbabwe High Commission I was appointed to teach English at a township school in Marondera, near Harare."

When asked what was the education system like during that period, Andrew explained that he taught English based on the UK 'O level' system to local township children who spoke Shona. For the next three years Andrew was based in Zimbabwe where he met his future wife Julie, a Kiwi pharmacist working with the Volunteer Service Abroad.

In 1990 they moved to New Zealand to raise their family and in 1991 Andrew attended Teachers' Training College in Karori before embarking on his Kiwi teaching experience.

"St Pat's has been really good to me and provided a lot of opportunities. No matter what department you are in there is an obvious community feel amongst the staff, the students are great as they have a strong sense of humour and as typical with boys, get over issues really fast and move on," Andrew says.

"Being educated in British Catholic schools I appreciate the spiritual fabric of life here at St Pat's as evidenced through Masses, liturgies and singing to name a few."

After being shown the proposed redevelopment of the theatre as a Performing Arts Centre, Andrew says this project will be pivotal to English and Drama studies across all levels.

"As a College we need such a facility to extend the Drama programme and encourage more seniors to take Drama as a senior study option in the coming years. To have a purpose built venue, complete with up to date technology will be inspiring and teaching staff will readily make use of such a space. For a number of years we've had to 'make do' but in this competitive education market it is wonderful to see the community getting behind such a project to enhance learning opportunities here at St Pat's."

#### **RECTOR'S FOUNDATION DINNERS**

A new initiative for 2011 has seen the successful introduction of a series of Rector's Foundation Dinners.

These dinners are hosted by the College Rector and guests receive a personal written invitation to attend dinner with 14 others in the College Boardroom.

Both Old Boys and parents are being issued invitations and of course this is a gradual process due to only having 14 around the table for each dinner.

Thanks to those couples who have already attended one of these small, intimate dinners and we hope our readers who receive an invitation in the future are able to come along.

A further five Rector's Foundation Dinners will be held during the rest of this year and we will be continuing this programme during 2012.



## SPORTS WALL 1979 – 2011, UPPER KENNEDY CORRIDOR

Have you seen the Sports Wall created in time for last year's 125<sup>th</sup> Jubilee? It's a fantastic collection of the following College senior teams: Rugby, cricket, football and basketball. However it is missing a few photos. If you have a team photo of the following that Archives could *briefly borrow* to scan and then return to you, it would enable this project to be completed.

#### Missing photos:

1985 Senior Basketball 1996 Senior Basketball 1986 Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI

#### Currently have photocopies only, original photos are being sought to scan and return to owner:

Senior Basketball – 1982, 1983, 1987, 1995, 1998 Football 1st XI – 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986 Cricket 1st XI – 1979, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989 Please email our Archives co-ordinator Judy Sharp at **jsharp@stpats.school.nz** or phone 9393070.



#### SUCCESS AT CHEMISTRY

#### **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY TITRATION COMPETITION 2011**

Every year the chemistry department at Victoria University holds a day of competition for senior high school chemists at the University's Kelburn campus. The main event is a Titration competition between students from more than 16 different Colleges in the greater Wellington region. Titration is a practical experiment which involves many precise, drop by drop reactions between two chemicals. The concentration of one chemical is given, the other concentration is unknown. The volume used of one chemical to completely react with the other is recorded. This number is then used to calculate the unknown concentration. In the competition the closest value to the actual concentration is the winner. In order to do well you need a steady hand, a keen eye and a lot of patience.

St Patrick's College entered two students in the Titration competition – Francis Henrys and Harry Fitzgerald. These budding young chemists were taken under the expert guidance of Dr Swapan Saha, a teacher at St Patrick's. Preparation involved many hours spent after school perfecting the delicate touch required to accurately titrate. As well as the practical side they also had to study the difficult calculation aspect of the competition.

On the day they were asked to analyse samples of aspirin using two different sets of titrations. After 12 individual titrations and 4 solid hours of experimentation, Harry Fitzgerald was placed first of 42 students with an answer within 0.1% of the actual value. He will receive a small cash prize as well as bragging rights until the next competition.

## ALEX FALA (1992-96) – FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Alex and his family are moving to Auckland and it was with regret that Alex stepped down as a Foundation Trustee. We wish to extend our thanks to Alex for his energy and continual support of the Foundation and the wider College. But, of course, we won't lose touch as Alex will continue as a Foundation committee member and is happy to assist with establishing the Foundation's SPC Old Boy network up there. We wish Alex and his family every success.

#### SERVING QUEEN & COUNTRY

MY NAME IS TOM KELLY. I ATTENDED ST PAT'S BETWEEN 2003 AND 2006. OUT OF ALL THE COLLEGES I ATTENDED (ROSMINI, WESTLAKE AND ST PAT'S), ST PAT'S WAS BY FAR THE GREATEST AND LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME.

A number of teachers guided and supported me to pursue excellence through my years there, both old and new. Leigh Lidstone, Father Martin, Gerard Tully and Mrs Reid to name a few. I partook in every activity possible during my time. From McEvedy to 1st XI Football to Taylorfest, the environment that these events fostered is hard to comprehend unless you're in the thick of it and I found it very hard describing the influence St Pat's had.

After college, as a fresh 17 year old living away from his parents, I attended Wellington's Victoria University with the likes of Bennett Dalton, Benjamin Gamble and Mike Downs to name a few greats. Three years later in 2009 I left with a Bachelor of Commerce, Majoring in International Business and Management. No matter what papers I had behind me, making my way in the big bad world of business is very challenging. This is where life took a significant turn. To set the scene, right at this very moment I am cleaning my Steyr Rifle for a coming weapon inspection by our Regimental Staff. I signed my life over to the Queen and country at the beginning of this year, enlisting as an Officer Cadet in the New Zealand Army.

Currently I am undergoing Officer training in Waiouru and am endeavouring to graduate on December the 7th into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. The Army life, ethos and values is very similar to what St Pat's fostered and is what makes this job so enjoyable (most of the time). I've recently spent the last 2 weeks on a defensive field exercise, where mental toughness and sleep deprivation were the lessons learned. Our core of 30 cadets, averaged 4 hours of broken sleep a night, section and platoon level commanding, open close and urban warfare, live and blank firing exercises and lastly 48 hours of straight digging.

This year has been the most physically and mentally demanding year of my life, by far. We are put though extreme conditions in order to prepare us for commanding troops, so that when we ask them to walk for 5 days straight with no sleep (Exercise Nemesis) or push their bodies beyond anything they could comprehend we ourselves have done it. The life I lead at this point in time is not designed for every person. It is one full of challenges, new adventures and serving others.

Sectare Fidem, Tom Kelly.



BELOW: ON A TRAINING EXERCISE NEAR MT RUAPEHU

ABOVE: 2006 Prefects – Tom Kelly 1st row, 2nd from left RIGHT: 2006 Football 1st XI – Tom Kelly 2nd row, 2nd from right



### MARIST ST PATS RFC & WORLD CUP 2011

Marist St Pat's RFC extends a warm invitation to the Foundation supporters of St Patrick's College Wellington to visit its Hataitai lounge during the Rugby World Cup. This open invitation is to visitors and supporters who may wish to be part of the World Cup and may not have had the opportunity to visit Marist St Pat's previously.

MSP's Hataitai lounge will be open, each Saturday evening, from Saturday 10 September 5pm, and for the final on Sunday evening 23 October (the Club is NOT open on Saturday 22 October 2011). In addition, MSP has a special World Cup dinner, with guest speakers, on Friday 7 October 2011 for international and local visitors. Visit www.msprugby.co.nz for details.

Of course Marist St Pat's had its genesis from the St Patrick's College Old Boys' RFC and continues to have strong ties with St Patrick's College. Join in with Marist St Pat's!

John Holden, Deputy Chairman Marist St Pat's RFC

email: msprugby@xtra.co.nz website: www.msprugby.co.nz

#### ST PAT'S OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Their annual dinner is here at St Pat's Town on Thursday 6th October. Get your ticket and make up a table with fellow Old Boys by emailing Wade Hall at secretary@spcob.org.nz

#### **MEMORABILIA**

Final stocks of Merino scarves, Jubilee prints, Sectare Fidem books, wine glasses and coasters are still available to purchase from the front office or by contacting the Development Manager direct. We continue to support the SPC Rugby Club – stocks of their special rugby ball remain available at \$25 each.

#### WE REMEMBER...

OLD BOY BRENDAN SCULLY, 1951–55
Please contact this office if you know of others who have passed away so we can add them in the next issue.

#### O'Shea Victorious

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE HAS A PROUD HISTORY IN THE O'SHEA SHIELD AND ON THE WEEKEND OF MAY 14-15 THE TEAM REPEATED THEIR 2009 VICTORY BY WINNING THE SHIELD AT GARIN COLLEGE, NELSON



This prestigious award was contested by 17 Catholic Colleges from the Central District.

The students also took out prizes for Religious Questions (1st: Section B), Drama (1st: Section A) and Impromptu Speaking (1st: Section A).

The weekend was busy but rewarding. The debating team of Francis Henrys, Alexander McKenna and Zubin D'Sousa were the first to compete. Their

argument was well prepared with the help of coaches Ms Lynley Reid and Mrs Halina McDonald. Next up was Religious Questions. The team of Nigel Huddleston, Luis Arca and Athul Harris – coached by Ms Sarah Parkinson – were also decisive winners in their section.

Junior Prepared Speaker Jonathan Dawson delivered a provocative speech. He was coached by Ms Reid.

The Religious Drama, saw a dead heat between St Pat's and St Catherine's. Ben Rogers, Logan Beasley, Sebastian Maher and Rory English were superb in an humourous yet thought provoking piece. The team was coached by Andrew Brennan and Krystyna Geris.

Leading off Sunday's events was Impromptu Speaker Zared Wall-Manning, who deservedly won this section. Zared was ably prepared by Mr Brennan. Scripture Reading was next and Zubin did us proud in this section. Mike Savali was Zubin's tutor.

The final competition of the weekend was Oratory. Alexander was a fine orator who spoke solemnly about a subject that was close to him. His coach was Mrs McDonald.

In 2012 St Patrick's College will defend the O'Shea Shield at Cullinane College, Wanganui and we look forward to continue the tradition of success set by many students and teachers over the years.



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE FOUNDATION

St Patrick's College Wellington Foundation

PO Box 14022, Wellington 6022

Email: development@stpats.school.nz DDI: 04 939-5416, Mobile: 027 466-3686

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