



Words & Deeds

2024 Ed.1



**ST VIRGIL'S
COLLEGE**

A Catholic boys school in the Edmund Rice tradition



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the muwinina people, the Traditional Owners and Custodians who for thousands of generations, lived and cared for the land on which our College stands today.

We acknowledge the continuing relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country that was never ceded and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Words & Deeds is a magazine for the St Virgil's College community.

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All contributions to **Words & Deeds** are greatly appreciated.



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This page
Liam Hazi, Bryer Pringle, Lochie Johnstone and Louis McKay (all Year 5)
Front cover
Lachlan Gillie (Year 11), Maverick Bradley (Year 9) and Oliver Sharpen (Year 8)



A Word from the Principal

This edition of Words & Deeds documents a 'first' in the history of St Virgil's College. That is, in 2024 we have become a full Kindergarten to Year 12 school.

The different articles 'bracket' this new era. We see photos of young boys and read the hopes of their parents in enrolling them at St Virgil's – for community, friends and an education from the beginning to end of their school years. From young students aged 4 or 5, until young adulthood at age 17 or 18. We also see photos and read the words of our first Year 12 students in over 30 years. Once

young students now speaking with the insight and appreciation of young men. Sincere and grateful for what School has given them.

This captures the purpose of St Virgil's and good schooling anywhere, to nurture young lives, support their growth in partnership with families, from innocent energy and dependence, to education, maturity and independence.

Other articles in this edition offer a glimpse of the range of

other experiences we provide our students along this journey; words about the deeds, opportunities and achievements the College offers along the way. We also focus on just two of our staff who enable this – in the areas of co-curricular and sport, and in music and performance. The part our staff play in growing young lives is invaluable.

Finally, we read of the legacy this leaves in lives and families, through the stories and experiences of Old Virgilians in the OVA section of the publication. The contributions of former students, past and present,

through family, community and professional life; quietly and humbly, publicly and on the bigger stage. Contributions to our world from those, at least partly formed, through a St Virgil's education.

Mr Jon Franzin
Principal

A Vision Realised

The Blessing and Opening of the Callan Centre, and extensions to the Doyle Wing and Joyce Performance Centre.

The view from the newly opened St Virgil's College Callan Centre over the River Derwent is spectacular. Light, trees, water and sky capture the eye. The achievement of an architectural vision, to ensure a new and fundamental future for the College – the return of Senior schooling. The vision to return Years 11 and 12 to St Virgil's took shape over recent years, inspired and driven by many, not least by staff member the late Mr Mark Waddington, who undertook the feasibility study which gave shape to the dream.

And so on 12 April 2024, Blessed by Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Reverend Julian Porteous, and opened by Tasmanian Senator, the Honourable Carol Brown, the Callan Centre became a vision realised. Set over three levels, the modern classrooms, tech hubs, breakout spaces and a student lounge (named in honour of Mr Waddington) are already in heavy use, enabling the dynamic collaboration between student and teacher, and between young men undertaking the shared journey of their last two years of schooling, preparing for work, vocation, higher study and life beyond school - the ultimate purpose of the new building. As Principal Mr Jon Franzin commented when addressing the students at the official opening, "As we know, a building is only that. It's

what we do in it; it's the human activity and educational programs that justify its existence."

Also blessed and opened on the day were extensions to the Doyle Wing and the Joyce Performance Centre, expanding the College's capacity to offer an extensive and complete secondary education, as well as expanding and reshaping facilities for staff collaboration, student specialisation, particularly in Music, and responding to the care, educational and wellbeing needs of developing boys and young men.

Many individuals and groups contributed to these developments, from staff, students, families, old boys and the local Church, through to architects, builders and government at all levels. This continues the legacy of the Christian Brothers and others who founded St Virgil's in 1911, and ensures its mission in liberating through education, the futures of boys and young men. As Archbishop Porteous noted about Catholic schools such as St Virgil's in his speech on the day, "Many, many sacrifices were made by both religious and parents through history. We are the beneficiaries of this sacrifice and the dedication of so many men and women of great faith. St Virgil's is built on the solid rock of the Catholic faith..."



Left to right: Dr Michael Slattery (EREA Council), Hon. Carol Brown, Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Suresh (Parish Priest), Mr Jon Franzin.



Aerial view of St Virgil's College with new developments in the foreground, including the Callan Centre on the right.



Gathered in front of the Joyce Performance Centre, special guests at the opening representing: the Catholic Church, Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Catholic Education Tasmania, SVC Advisory Council, Old Virgilians, builders and architects, current and former staff, and student leaders.

Buddies – Kinder and 12 and in between

To a five-year-old at St Virgil's, Years 11 and 12 students have their uses – such as dragging logs and helping to build forts. And the Senior students happily go along with that as part of a buddy program that a K-12 school can offer. These activities, built around Bush Kinder, learning from country and connection to the environment build relationships, create community and broaden perspectives. Engaging across the age groups lets the older students see the world through the eyes of younger students – and gives them a welcome break from their studies. For the younger boys, the time with Years 11 and 12 students opens their eyes to a school which is bigger than the Junior Campus, and a view into what the future holds.

“The Buddies program builds connections” says Director of Early Years, Mrs Sandra Mazengarb. “Connections to country, to high school, between campuses and ages. Younger boys see a direction to their education, what is to come, and what roles and expectations lie ahead.” Prep and other younger students are also partnered up with Senior students for whole School events such as assemblies and masses. “The older students realise they have experience and understanding they can share – the young ones want to hear and learn from them.” Community and belonging is built, and connections at times extending between families. “The kind of experience many new parents/carers are seeking when enrolling their sons at the Junior School.”

As a school specialising in what works best for boys, the buddy program is intentionally active and connected to the local physical environment. As well as a sense of belonging, educational benefits flow. “Communication skills and teamwork develop, there is learning about patterns, older students learn how to teach and share knowledge in ways the young can understand; young boys can explain and talk about what they are learning”, said Mrs Mazengarb. There is active engagement and student enquiry is valued, with boys developing confidence and capacity – building their own theories and knowledge, beyond simple rote learning.

The buddy system also operates within the Junior School, with older Junior School students spending time with the youngest students helping with reading, work and building things together. Regardless of their own status or learning challenges, the older students are accepted for who they are by the younger ones – they can be themselves. And they accept the responsibilities that go with that, recognising they need to exemplify good behaviour, modifying how they play in the playground, looking out for the younger boys, sharing space, and teaching skills when playing. The Junior School has changed with the introduction of Kindergarten to Year 2, with a real buzz amongst the students and staff about how to be inclusive, dynamic and include all ages.



Learning Leadership – Peer to Peer

Who better for Junior School students to learn about their potential for leadership, than from their Senior School peers, the student leaders of the College. Year 6 students spent an enjoyable day with Year 12 students at the New Town Bay Rowing Sheds, during which they were encouraged to ‘unlock’ the code to what makes them strive

to be the best version of themselves. A day of fun, games and activities with a focus – discovering their best potential, and their capacity to embrace and exemplify The Virgilian Way values in their daily lives. The antecedents to effective student leadership.

Blazing a Trail - Year 12 2024



Left to right: Charles Lennon and Thomas Marr



Year 12 students Thomas Marr (College Captain) and Charles Lennon (College Vice Captain) agree; "Bringing back Years 11 and 12 to St Virgil's is changing the culture in the whole School."

The decision Thomas and Charles made to stay on at St Virgil's after Year 10 was not difficult for either of them. They acknowledge that there was a "bit of uncertainty" among students, given the importance of the final two years of school, but as Charles said, "I put my trust in the staff and teachers", and he has no regrets. The School made it clear "they would go to whatever lengths to give us the subjects we wanted, either at the College or externally at another school". Both young men also come from families with a long established history of attendance at St Virgil's, which was an additional factor in their decision, "As a family we knew," says Thomas, "We value the culture here, I've done well and wanted to stay."

As they head into their final months of schooling, Charles and Thomas praise their educational experience, ranging from the teaching and learning dynamic through to the physical facilities. And with early entry applications for tertiary studies in 2025 already happening, their appreciation comes with a strong sense

that "The end of school is becoming real – this is the most important year." They very much appreciate the teacher-student relationship; "We are more on the same level; they're trying to get the best out of us, and we want to do well. We can focus on our studies, rely on our teachers, and benefit from smaller classes, more like a tutorial." They are confident they can get the best out of themselves and their studies, with teachers who "know their situation" and their needs. In addition, is the bonus of the new Callan Centre; "A new, state of the art facility, quiet spaces to go, study and prepare for exams, and a nearby common room to relax in."

Reflecting on their experience as the first students in over 30 years to stay on at St Virgil's past Year 10, Thomas commented, "We are more mature now. We have been through the junior secondary experience, but now feel less social pressure, so can help the younger students." Charles added that the Senior students "can be more mature role models that help the younger students visualise their pathway to Years 11 and 12 – to think about what they could do in their Senior Years." They also see a direct benefit to the quality of Junior Years subjects and teaching, due to having teachers now also focused on and experienced in teaching higher level Senior courses. "Electives in Years 9 and 10 are being modified to allow a better

transition into Years 11 and 12, taking into account future TASC and VET courses."

Thomas and Charles are conscious that their cohort is putting in place a potential template and culture which students will follow in the future, as the Senior Years "build slowly, people want to stay on, valuing the culture and mateship, and getting a great education." They are grateful for what has been done for them, and have a growing appreciation for and awareness of those things they may once have taken for granted, including the underlying Catholic values and rituals of the School. "In Years 7 and 8 Mass is something you sit through, now I realise I'll be attending my last School mass," said Thomas. And they are embracing and looking forward to the rituals and rites of transition that come with the last year of school – including the Formal held at the Elwick Function Centre in Term 2, and of course the Graduation Mass and Dinner with their families, which will be on them before they know it.





Kinder at St Virgil's - Parent Perspectives

The first thing we noticed was the care and support, "and that really sealed our decision". Parents/carers such as Ali Rhodes are very focused on finding the right first experience of school for their young sons. The first step on a journey that can unfold at St Virgil's College over 14 years.

Old Virgilian and now parent, Ben Rose, spoke of the strong sense his son has of being part of group. "For us that means he'll have a strong sense of the School community and have a strong group of mates who will hopefully carry him all the way through."

Now that St Virgil's has become a complete Kindergarten to Year 12 school for the first time in its 113-year history, with the introduction of a full Early Learning and Junior School program, parents/carers are looking at both the first steps for their sons, and also the longer view. The "guidance and care for our boys was just lovely. That's one of the things we were looking for in a school - being able to go from Kindergarten to Year 12 and being with some of the boys the whole way, to see them grow up together and to see that bond grow over the years. That's a really important thing for us."

Many Old Virgilians attest to the bonds, friendships, and sense of identity they carry long after their formal education has finished. A future legacy that can now stretch back to the earliest years of school.

Connecting Parents and Families



St Virgil's College Junior School has long welcomed and benefited from the interest and involvement of parents/carers. With the introduction of Kindergarten to Year 2 this is even stronger, with parents/carers of boys starting school keen to be engaged and connected. The Welcome Barbecue with Parent Information Evening in February was the first time in some years the College community had the opportunity to hold this

event. Families grabbed the opportunity to join in-person, mingle with staff and each other, form new relationships and rekindle old ones. The importance of parent/teacher relationships can never be overstated, in the joint project of each boys' learning and development. Thanks to the Junior School P&F for the coordination of the Welcome Barbecue and the generosity of our families who contributed a salad or dessert to share.



Rowing Achievements

An Australian national title, and a fourth consecutive Junior Boys' Head of the River win have put the spotlight on the growing success of St Virgil's College's rowing program. It has been a case of 'ignite the interest', build the numbers, and both involvement and achievement follow. The appointment of a new Director of Rowing five years ago has coincided with a 12-student team rapidly growing to 40, and now 60 student rowers.

Testing themselves out on the national stage in March, the St Virgil's U17 men's double scull team of Llewellyn Gray and Saxon Van Anholt powered their way through the heats and semis, to then take out the final at the 2024

National Regatta at the International Regatta Centre, Sydney. They also combined with fellow student Alex Lamprey and Buckingham Club rower Callum Wigston, to win the U17 men's quadruple scull, coxed by Lucy Pinelli from St Mary's College.

These successes were preceded more broadly by St Virgil's winning the Junior Boys' Aggregate Shield at the Head of the River Regatta at Lake Barrington, earlier in March. This is the fourth consecutive year St Virgil's has won the shield. This augurs well for the future, with the College having reintroduced Years 11 and 12, providing an attractive option for students to stay at St Virgil's to

complete their secondary education – and also represent the School in sport, not least in rowing.

Celebration of the success of the growing rowing program was on show at 'The Saints (St Virgil's and St Mary's) Rowing Awards Dinner' at Blundstone Arena in June. Effort, commitment, achievement, and success were acknowledged, both individually and by crew. The event also reflected the immense level of support and commitment from students, staff, parents/carers and volunteers, upon which a successful rowing program depends.

Also acknowledged during the evening was Oliver Wilson-Haffenden, to whom a great deal of credit for the recent rowing success at St Virgil's can be attributed. A former student, talented high-level rower and Tasmanian rowing representative, after working in finance Mr Wilson-Haffenden took on the role of Director of Rowing at St Virgil's five years ago. Since then student numbers have grown, achievements have followed, and his role has expanded to now include oversight of St Mary's College rowers. He is now looking forward to taking some of the students to the National Trials in 2025, and in 2024-25 is making the Eights a special focus, with plans for SVC to boat its first eight in the Head of the River in over 30 years.

More Than a Game – Leading Co-curricular Life at SVC

Michael Moschogianis – Director of Sport and Community Liaison

As critical as the quality of classroom learning is at School, what happens outside class provides a tremendous bonus – both for students and the whole College community. At St Virgil's this ranges from sport, music and drama, through to robotics, chess, community service, social justice and religious initiatives.

One key leader in this space is the St Virgil's College Director of Sport and Community Liaison, Mr Michael Moschogianis. Recruited to this role six years ago from the position of State Manager for the North Melbourne Football Club, Mr Moschogianis came to St Virgil's as a sports professional of 27 years, rather than as a teacher – the traditional pathway into the role. The increasing specialisation and professionalisation of sport and recreation has made its way through the community, including into schools. Bringing this lens to the role, and with background in sports marketing and media, Mr Moschogianis' focus reaches beyond administration, to building programs, pathways and relationships. Linking with community and state bodies, leading to greater opportunities for students. As for getting boys into state programs, he comments that the College "is producing so many state representatives that it's hard to keep up".

But as 'pointman' for 33 co-curricular offerings, involving 87% of students, Mr Moschogianis is an uncompromising

advocate not only for their intrinsic benefits, but the better relationships, classroom dynamics and learning that follow. At the heart of this is the relationship between teachers and students, and with 90% of coaches and managers being St Virgil's teachers, relationships built outside the classroom start conversations leading to better learning. Mr Moschogianis promotes this to staff and they embrace it. He comments, "the percentage uptake of involvement (in co-curricular) by both students and staff has been quite remarkable. It is pleasing how far we've come and much of that is driven by staff." He goes on to note in relation to sport, "Active boys learn teamwork, mateship and resilience. If we can assist in that, they will be better learners for life."

A growing co-curricular program brings challenges as well as opportunities. With Years 11 and 12 now on board, growing numbers mean more teams, demanding more facilities, administration and coaching. Entering senior teams into competition, particularly in football, cricket and rowing will happen - when the students are ready. Mr Moschogianis says it is important to avoid overstretching, so there is an ongoing review to balance existing with potential new programs, as well as keeping school training in check, given the club commitments of many boys.



Making Music Makers

Gabrielle Ball – Director of Music

“It’s a balance,” says Ms Gabrielle Ball, Director of Music at St Virgil’s College. Students performing and playing music, but also learning about it in class. “The key to a strong music program is having a co-curricular program (of bands, ensembles, and performers) which draws on concepts taught and used in the classroom.”

Ms Ball is talking about the dynamic which is driving the “small but mighty” music program at St Virgil’s, which this year has seen the inaugural Year 12 Music class of four, all admitted to the University of Tasmania Music Foundations Course via audition and performance. A first-year university course they are undertaking in association with their Year 12 studies – and which counts towards both a future university degree and their TCE points.

A product of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, specialising in French Horn, Ms Ball’s first career was as a professional musician, performing

with the Queensland and ACT Symphony Orchestras, and 11 years as a member of the Army Band Corps in Brisbane, Melbourne and Duntroon; the apex of that career being performing at the ANZAC Commemoration at Gallipoli. A subsequent teaching career in schools in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart means Ms Ball has a breadth of experience ideal for St Virgil’s – or any school.

The College music program is small and enthusiastic, and ‘growing it’ is a focus of Ms Ball’s efforts as Director. This ranges from the choir and band in the Junior School, supported by “some of the best tutors in Hobart”, through to Year 9 bands experimenting with rock and jazz, a Senior Stage Band, and open music rooms at recess and lunch - to capture the interest of the experienced and novice performer, to experiment, develop skills, and enjoy making music. Ms Ball is also exploring plans for a Music Camp and scholarships, moving the program beyond the ‘small’ and building upon the ‘mighty’.



OVA Committee

President

David Mazengarb (SVC 1971-79)

Vice President

Bruce Woods (SVC 1955-60; Staff 2011 -)

Secretary

Graeme Rainbow
(SVC 1957-63; Staff 1971-82, 1985-2001, 2011 -)

Treasurer

Michael Harvey (SVC 1983-88)

Chaplain

Fr Michael Delaney (1963-68)

Committee

Paul Boutchard (SVC 1967-75; Staff 1983-85, 1987-91)
Corey Bygraves (SVC 1984-89)
Neil Gibson (SVC 1997-2000)
Alana Robertson (SVC 1954-60)
Chris Wright (SVC 1966-73)

Website

www.oldvirgilians.org.au

The OVA website provides Old Virgilians with greater options to stay connected and support the College and OVA.

Feedback is welcome and all contributions to The Old Virgilian greatly appreciated.

In the News

An extensive list of news stories from old boys across the world can be found in OVAtions - the monthly e-newsletter for Old Virgilians.

To subscribe or to access past editions, please visit the OVA website: www.oldvirgilians.org.au.

The Old Virgilian



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2024 Events

OVA Annual Golf Day

The 63rd OVA Gold Day will be held on Friday 8 November at the Royal Hobart Golf Club. Entry details will be provided in upcoming editions of the OVA tions.

Melbourne Reunion

Proposed date: Friday 25 October
Proposed venue: RAVC City Club

Luncheon

Consideration is being given to additional OVA Luncheons for 2024— where/when/if.

No decisions have been made at this stage. Suggestions are welcome.

1984 Leavers Reunion

The following information was received from Dr Bernie McCartney: An St Virgil's College and St Mary's College reunion for the class of '84' is planned for late 2024. To receive further information and to be placed on the contact list please email svcsmc84@gmail.com.

Annual Dinner

OVA Annual Dinner will be hosted on Friday 11 October at the New Town Bay Rowing Centre. Further details will be provided in the upcoming editions of the OVA tions.

1974 - Fifty Year Reunion

It is now fifty years since the 1974 Sixth Formers left the College. Initial plans are underway to celebrate the occasion. For initial planning queries, please contact Warren Ross at 0439 801 239 or email warrenross1@bigpond.com.

Event updates are communicated on www.oldvirgilians.org.au and www.facebook.com/oldvirgiliansassociation.

Please continue to let us know of your upcoming events so they can be shared with the OVA community.



“ I am most grateful and appreciative of the inputs of our broad membership base, which has encouraged the OVA Committee to think more broadly about the path the OVA should take. ”

President's Message

It is my pleasure to report to both OVA members and the broader College community on the activities of the OVA since my last report.

Pleasingly, consultations with members over that period have been very productive in reinvigorating the OVA and its role in the broader College community.

The OVA annual general meeting on 29 April 2024 was very well attended by members, and this provided an excellent forum for engagement. Those members present were most forthcoming with positive suggestions and recommendations as to how OVA can increase its profile and contribution to the College community. The Committee has received those suggestions and has now commenced several actions to deliver those outcomes.

At the Annual General Meeting, retiring committee members, Michael Harvey and Zac Piesse, were thanked for their significant contributions. Alan Robertson and Neil Gibson were welcomed to the OVA Committee - both have excellent skills to contribute. We look forward to their ongoing contributions over the next year or so.

The next 12 months will be busy for the OVA as the work plans of the Committee have been set to deliver on the recommendations of members. Included in the work plans

is the review of the Association's Constitution, the Memorandum of Understanding with the College, as well as formalising the OVA processes in relation to the Honour Roll. This will necessitate a Special General Meeting of members in the next few months. This is a large body of work for the Committee. We have been fortunate that suitably experienced OVA members have stepped forward to assist the Committee with these tasks.

I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the College through the Principal, Jon Franzin, who has openly engaged with members and the Committee through some recent challenges that have impacted the School community and the OVA membership. There is still work to be done by both the College and the OVA to ensure the relationship progresses to deliver the best outcomes for the College community. Many of the initiatives that have been discussed to ensure a closer relationship with the College will be embraced in the MOU.

I reiterate from the previous edition of Words & Deeds that the OVA is the single largest stakeholder in the College community. Accordingly, the Committee will be looking to draw upon members of this group to contribute to the OVA and its actions to make a substantial contribution to the College community.

Service and Achievement

Making a Difference - Gifted & Giving

Heath Adams

Returning to Tasmania in 2020 after studying and working in medicine in Australia and abroad, Dr Heath Adams BMedSci, MBBS (Hons), DipUKMP, FRCP, FCSAN brought back with him highly specialised skills in cardiology that have been of life-changing benefit to many Tasmanians.



Dr Adams (SVC 1998-2001) introduced the ground breaking DAVI procedure for replacing faulty or poorly functioning aortic valves in the heart, to the Royal Hobart Cardiology Unit. It has now been used over 300 times to save lives around Tasmania.

Heath learned the procedure at St Thomas' Hospital, London, where he did further studies having received the Dr M G Ciezar Scholarship from the University of Tasmania, from where he originally graduated with First Class Honours in Medicine in 2009.

The former 2001 Head Prefect at SVC, Dr Adams' return to Tasmania in 2020 was fortuitous, as it came just before the COVID lockdowns. Prior to this, Tasmanians requiring the DAVI procedure would normally have travelled to the mainland at great inconvenience and additional expense.

Retiring After Two Decades with UTAS

Adrian Dillon

Adrian Dillon (SVC 1978-83) recently retired from the University of Tasmania (UTAS) where he has been a key player in the digital transformation of the University since commencing in 1998.

Prior to retirement Adrian was Chief Information Officer (CIO) at UTAS, previously being Deputy CIO. Adrian led the implementation of a digital transformation strategy encompassing, learning and teaching, digital research, administrative and cyber security. Deploying new services was fundamental during the recent pandemic to ensuring the University was able to operate and stay connected.

To quote from an article by Kate Weber in the iTnews, "He said he garnered 'a sense of satisfaction' that the university had 'fundamentally shifted the dial' through 'the myriad of initiatives we turned around in a very short timeframe'.... This ensured the university 'could continue to deliver its core services of teaching and research'." Adrian was awarded the University Distinguished Service medal in December 2022.



A Long Way to the Top

Mark Hunt

From snake wrangler to professor, it has been a unique trajectory since Mark Hunt BAppSc (Hons) PhD MBA GAICD MIFA, Professor and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Tasmania, concluded his education at St Virgil's (SVC 1975-82).

After 18 months at university, Mark determined it wasn't for him and began a seven-year odyssey of work and travel, including in: hotel and restaurants, a casino, as a lab technician in Melbourne, butler/housekeeper for Clifton Pugh, and hitching to Perth for more work. A return to Hobart followed, then north to be an animal keeper at the Tasmanian Wildlife Park – handling tiger snakes. Mark's return to study at UTAS in 1991, was the beginning of a significant professional and academic career.

Receiving a Doctorate in Forestry Science, Mark spent 14 years leading industrial forestry and research for the Queensland Government, as well as working on Aid-funded projects in the South Pacific and Asia. A southerly

change in 2011 saw Mark become Station Leader at the Australian Antarctic Division's Casey Station, spending over 400 days on the ice.

In 2013 Mark returned to UTAS as Professor of Forestry Science, and recently concluded six years as UTAS Pro Vice Chancellor – Transformation, focused on infrastructure planning and transformation. He has now stepped down from the executive to focus on his academic role as Professor of Forestry Science.



45 Years' Rural & Regional Care

Brian Bowring

In March, Dr Brian Bowring AM FRACGP (SVC 1963-72) retired as a Principal/Partner, GP from the George Town Medical Centre after 45 years. During his career, Brian did extensive work in GP education, support and rural and remote health workforce education. He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for 'Service to the community through the development and support of rural medicine in Tasmania' and in 2013 was honoured with an AM for 'Significant service to Medicine in rural and regional areas, and as a general practitioner'.

Brian started in Year 4 at Barrack Street, but his schooling was curtailed due to complications from a fractured femur suffered on the first day of the 1967 bush fires. Missing a lot of school, he pushed on to repeat Year 10, finishing his HSC in 1972 and graduating from Medicine at the University of Tasmania in 1979.

In retirement Brian and wife Helen have been working on their 450-acre property near Weymouth, abutting the Little Pipers River/Worewoter. They have a Conservation Covenant in perpetuity over the property, which they care for with traditional burning, weed control and documenting birds/animals and plants.



Tax Diplomat – Finding Fairness for Developing Countries

Michael Lennard

“Both my upbringing from my parents and my schooling in Tasmania were grounded in humility, social justice, and using your talents for the benefit of people other than yourself,” are the words of Michael Lennard (SVC 1971-78) and reflect what motivates him in his role as Chief of International Tax Cooperation in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations.

Named 2023 Person of the Year by ‘Tax Notes International’, Michael is an international law and economic law expert who has spent nearly 20 years in his UN role working on taxation and sustainable development; brokering agreements between countries to support developing countries move beyond aid dependency. This includes addressing issues such as profit

shifting out of developing countries, by negotiating fair tax treaties. It is diplomatic work. In the words of Annet Oguttu, Professor of Tax Law at the University of Pretoria, “He says it as it is, but in a very gentle, diplomatic and inclusive manner. He knows his stuff, but he has a way about him that does not antagonise people.”

Michael worked in competition and consumer law before joining the Australian Taxation Office, and has worked in Australia’s Attorney-General’s Department, the Australian Government Office of International Law and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Saving Reefs - Marine Ecology

Scott Ling

As a child, watching a trout filled ecosystem in the stream running through his family’s garden, and fishing and diving in marine habitats rich with giant kelp at his family’s shack at Bicheno, helped form the experiences that led Scott Ling (SVC 1990-94) to a career in Marine Ecology.



Studying Science, Scott earned his PhD in Marine Ecology at the University of Tasmania, where he is now an Associate Professor and ARC Future Fellow in Reef Ecology. His research focuses on how and why productive reef ecosystems collapse into impoverished systems, difficult to reverse.

Since his childhood, the population of giant kelp along Tasmania’s east coast has declined by 95%. To quote Scott from a recent UTAS Alumni article, “There has been a real regime shift in the ecology of eastern Tasmania from my childhood to the present day... We need to build resilience of these systems to further changes.” The research team Ling is part of has shown that building up the numbers of big lobsters is key for keeping urchins in check, and is also undertaking giant kelp forest restoration research.

New Tasmanian Parliamentary Labor Leader

Dean Winter

Dean (SVC 1998-2001) has assumed the leadership of the Tasmanian Parliamentary Labor Party following the resignation of its former leader, Rebecca White.

In his final year at St Virgil’s, Dean was a prefect and captained the senior cricket team. He studied economics at the University of Tasmania, later becoming CEO at TasICT, the peak body representing Tasmania’s ICT sectors, and holding senior roles with telecommunications providers.

Dean was elected as a Kingborough Councillor in 2014, and elected as the youngest mayor in Kingborough’s history in 2018. Dean was elected for the Franklin Division in the 2021 State Election. He served as Leader of Opposition Business in the House of Assembly, and a range of Shadow Ministry roles.



Sporting Honours

Athletics - OVA Southern Saints 60th Anniversary

A wonderful 60th Anniversary celebration of the club was held at the New Town Hockey Centre in November 2023. Life Member Lauren Jauncey Gorringer, an Australian Junior representative who has made a significant contribution to athletics and sport, was MC on the night.

Simon Hollingsworth flew from Melbourne for the keynote address. Head Prefect in 1989, Simon graduated from the University of Tasmania and was Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 1997. He combined academia with athletics, representing Australia in two Olympic Games (Barcelona and Atlanta), two Commonwealth Games and two World Championships.

During the evening Lauren interviewed Jacob Despard

(SVC 2010-2013) on his outstanding athletics journey. As a 16-year-old Jacob won the 2013 Burnie Gift, the Devonport Gift, and the Stawell Gift in 2018. Jacob represented Australia in last year’s Commonwealth Games in the 4 x 100m relay. During 2023 he broke the Tasmanian Residential Record for 200m.

Another highlight of the evening was the awarding of life membership to Nathan Morey (SVC 2003-06), a member of club since 2003. College Captain in 2006, Nathan was also Captain of the Athletics and Cross-Country teams that year. Nathan twice made the finals of the 800m and 1500m at the National Track Championships and as a 16-year-old placed second in the State Senior 800m title. Nathan was Club President from 2013 until 2021.

The 62nd OVA Golf Day

Blessed with ideal weather, 28 teams comprising 111 players (51 Old Virgilians) competed in the 62nd Annual OVA Golf Day.

The Overall Winner was Will Busch with 50 points, also winning the Best OV category. Michael Moschogianis (current SVC staff) was best non-OV player on 40 points. Alison Sully won the ladies’ category with 36 points. The Teams event was taken out by Michael Moschogianis, Damian Messer, Simon Direen and Warren Walker.

Thanks to our major event sponsor, Raine & Horne, and minor sponsors Tilford Motors, Graham Family Funerals and the Royal Hobart Golf Club, for their ongoing support, and to Peppermint Bay, Pennicott Wilderness Cruises and Par Avion for providing the raffle prizes. Many thanks to Michael Harvey and his team for organising the event.



Remembering Old Virgilians

MAZENGARB, John Francis (SVC 1948-54)

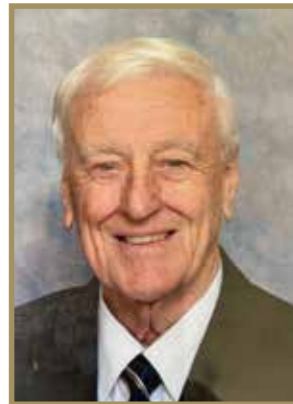
John Mazengarb (10.11.1936–31.10.2023), eldest son of Norman and Mavis Mazengarb, grew up in New Town, enrolling at St Virgil's College in 1948, followed by brothers David (SVC 1953-59), Michael (SVC 1957-66).

A capable student, upon matriculation John commenced with the Supreme Court and Sheriff's Department. An impressive athlete also, particularly as a footballer, John played for Old Virgilians and represented Tasmania.

Marriage to Grace Lowe was blessed with five children - John (SVC 1970-78), David (SVC 1971-79), Maryanne, Andrew (SVC 1976-83) and Catherine.

John rose through the Public Service ranks, along the way gaining a Diploma of Public Admin. and BA. He became Director Personnel on the Public Service Board in the late 70s, Commissioner for Review in 1988 and Commissioner for Public Employment in 1989 until retirement in 1991.

John was an outstanding contributor to the community. This included serving on the Board of Southern Cross Care where he had significant involvement in developments at Glenarra Lakes and Fairway Rise. His support for Catholic Education ranged from P&F Presidency at both school and state level, to chairing the Catholic Education Commission.



SMITH, Ian Ronald Vincent (SVC 1953-57)

Ian Smith (09.11.1941–18.10.2023) legend of the Tasmanian fruit industry, sailor, classic car racer, husband to Carolyn and father to Vanessa, Claudette and Andrew (SVC 1980-86), was a third-generation apple orchardist who thrived in a difficult industry. When he joined his father in the business, they changed it to an intensive orchard, increasing from 800 trees a hectare to 2800. His father died when he was just 21 and Ian assumed huge responsibilities early.

In 1967 bushfires burnt down their packing shed. Ian learned to weld and rebuilt the shed himself. This was the start of a can-do attitude and life approach to doing everything himself. The apple industry changed with England joining the EEC and like many, Ian started building his own cool stores. He became somewhat of an expert on refrigeration and storage.

Ian had an outstanding sailing career, representing Australia in the World One Ton Cup in America and did 20 Sydney to Hobarts. He also became heavily involved in car racing and held a lap record at Baskerville for many years.

HEADLAM Peter James (SVC 1958-63)

Peter Headlam (28.04.1946–10.02.2024) son of Maurice and Pamela, father to Rebecca, Nicole, Martin and James, and partner of Marguerite, was farewelled from St Mary's Cathedral on 22 February.

From Jericho, Peter commenced as a boarder at St Virgil's in 1958. He was prefect in his final year and he represented the College in Rugby and Rowing, and was involved with the Young Christian Students. Peter gained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from UTAS, before returning to carry on the legacy of his family's six generations of sheep farming.

Peter said his university studies enhanced his skills, particularly in animal breeding, crop and pasture management and generated a scientific attitude on farm experimentation and innovation. This resulted in him dabbling in truffles, venison, wool processing and group breeding. Peter later became a part-time lecturer at the Tasmanian Institute of Technology in business in agriculture.

YARD, Rev Fr Terence Gilbert (SVC 1954-57)

Terry Yard (27.10.1939–28.02.2024) was born at Ulverstone to Mary and Gilbert Yard. He commenced at St Virgil's in 1954, followed by younger brother Michael (SVC 1959-60).

Terry commenced studies for the priesthood in 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Guilford Young at Deloraine on 28 June 1966. Appointments followed for Fr Terry, starting with St Finn Barr's Invermay, Corpus Christi Bellerive, Sacred Heart New Town, Our Lady of Lourdes Devonport, Church of the Apostles Launceston, and Meander Valley Parish.

Fr Terry had a special interest in the L'Arche movement which supports people with intellectual disabilities to take their rightful place in our communities. His dream for a community in Hobart was realised when in 1982, parishioner Mrs Marion Allen willed her home at 40 Pirie Street, New Town to the Church. Father Terry convinced his superiors that it become Tasmania's first L'Arche community.



Over 57 years Fr Terry also served in other roles, including chaplain to Clarence Football Club, Ashley Youth Detention Centre, Launceston General Hospital, the Vietnamese Community, Marriage Encounter, as Vocations Director and on the Council of Priests.

MCMANUS, Timothy Joseph (SVC 1941-50)

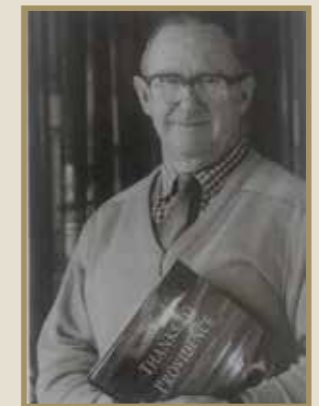
Tim McManus (12.12.1932–21.02.2024) eldest son of Les and Norah, attended St Virgil's from Year 4, matriculating in 1950 as Dux. He studied at UTAS before moving to New South Wales for Veterinary Science.

After working for the Agricultural Department, from the 1960's Tim lived and worked in Falmouth, where he ran a veterinary surgery, retiring in 1997. In October 2022, Tim celebrated 60 years of marriage to his wife Eileen (née McMenimam). They have four daughters.

For years he had a segment on northern radio, discussing animal health and welfare on the ABC Country Hour. An expert in Ross River virus, Tim acted locally as a disease consultant, warning locals and unsuspecting visitors to the East Coast about how to protect themselves. Tim also helped establish the Winifred Curtis Reserve, 75-hectares featuring the last intact remnant of dry sclerophyll bushland, marshland and heathland in the Break O'Day

Municipality.

An active member of the Catholic community on the East Coast especially in the St Helens Parish, last year he was awarded the Guilford Young Medal for his contribution to the Catholic Church.





Your prayers are requested for the following recently deceased Old Virgilians.



Vale

ABRAHAMS, Adrian Charles
SVC staff 1973-76, 1989-97
Died 29.12.2023

BREEN, Kevin James
SVC 1949-54
09.07.1938 – 21.03.2024

BULLOCK, Paul Linton
SVC 1957-61
13.05.1945 – 25.05.2024

CALDWELL, John Anthony
Former Principal of St Peter's
School (1972-73)
19.04.1946 – 23.03.2024

CLINCH, Br Peter cfc
SVC staff 1976-77, 1985-90
10.11.1953 – 28.01.2024

DERMODY, Edward Graham
'Itchy'
SVC 1946-53
28.01.1936 – 12.07.2023

DEAYTON, Kerry Michael
SVC 1958-64
07.10.1977 – 26.03.2024

FOOKS, Wayne
SVC 1955-64
03.10.1945 – 10.12.2023

GRIMA, Emmanuel 'Manny'
SVC 1954-60
21.12.1943 – 30.05.2024

HASSETT, Redmond Peter
SVC 1948-52
09.04.1937 – 04.11.2023

HEADLAM, Peter James
SVC 1958-63
28.04.1946 – 10.02.2024

JEFFREY, David Cameron
SVC 1961-66
22.01.1951 – 02.01.2024

KUDOR, Csaba (Frank)
SVC 1960-70
22.05.1962 – 30.01.2024

MAZENGARB, John Francis
SVC 1948-54
10.11.1936 – 31.10.2023

McKITTRICK, Brian
SVC staff 1961
1936 Died 06.03.2024

McMANUS, Timothy Joseph
SVC 1941-50
12.12.1932 – 21.02.2024

McSHANE, Robert Walter (Bob)
SVC 1947-53
08.02.1936 – 23.12.2023

MIDSON, Joseph Vincent
SVC 1984-89
04.10.1971 – 15.03.2024

MULLIGAN, Richard Patrick
SVC 1979-87
14.04.1970 – 09.05.2024

QUINN, David William 'Darby'
SVC 1935-43
Died 05.09.2023

SCARAFIOTTI, Oreste
SVC 1942-46
24.03.1927 – 25.01.2024

SHACKCLOTH, Raymund Gerard
(Ray)
SVC 1977-82
11.03.1964 – 02.03.2024

SMITH, Ian Ronald Vincent
SVC 1953-57
09.11.1941 – 18.10.2023

STUART, Paul Charles
SVC 1956-61
14.05.1944 – 05.03.2024

TYRRELL, John Francis cfc
Headmaster of St Peter's School
(1968)
Died 29.11.2023

YARD, Rev Fr Terence Gilbert
SVC 1954-57
27.10.1939 – 28.02.2024

If you are aware of any recently deceased members of the St Virgil's College community please pass on the details to OVA Secretary, Graeme Rainbow, grainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au.



ST VIRGIL'S COLLEGE

A Catholic boys school in the Edmund Rice tradition

Senior School - Year 7 to 12

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Junior School - Kindergarten to Year 6

102 Patrick Street
Hobart Tas 7000
(03) 6234 2440
jsadmin@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Old Virgilians Association

www.oldvirgilians.org.au