



Words & Deeds

Vol. 21 No. 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 community.

Editors

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This Page
Nicholas Batchelor (Kindergarten) and Joel Vallerine (Year 9) during
International Mud Day celebrations

Front Cover
Max Free (Year 3)



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As 2023 draws to a close, we reflect on the year that was—a year of progress and accomplishment, of milestones and memories, and of collaboration and planning for the next iteration of boys’ education at St Virgil’s College.

This year marked a significant chapter in the history of the College with the introduction of Year 1 and reintroduction to Year 11. In 2024, St Virgil’s and the Hobart community will be proudly celebrating its first Year 12 graduates in 30 years; our students will venture out into the world not just as individuals, but as friends,

brothers and a foundation for lifelong bonds.

Stepping into Senior Secondary education, our Year 11 students have not only succeeded but thrived. Their positive impact has been felt throughout the College, in the ways they have contributed to a culture of academic excellence and provided leadership to our younger students by espousing our College values in both words and deeds.

After many years of planning, we were excited to see the successful completion of the Callan Centre in March and Doyle Wing in September. These modern, state-of-the-art facilities were developed in direct response to the



A Word from the Principal

addition of Year 11 and 12 at the Austins Ferry campus and will connect students with all facets of College life, supporting their learning and future goals.

The seamless pathway from Kindergarten to Year 12 at St Virgil's will be complete next year with the commencement of Year 2. Work to date has included curriculum development and approvals, a building program and upgrades at both the Junior and Senior campuses, staffing—prioritising expertise in Early Years and Senior Secondary education, subject selection processes in Year 11 and 12, and pathway and curriculum planning for students in the middle and senior years.

I look forward with great anticipation to developing the rites of passage for our Year 12s: the Year 12 Formal, Valedictory Dinner, Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony and our Year 12 Mass and Retreat program. Such experiences create opportunities for our community to recognise the gifts, talents and character traits of our young men and acknowledge their shift into adulthood.

I am confident that we will continue to build on our many strengths in 2024.

Mr Jon Franzin
Principal

Walking Towards Reconciliation

The College's new water carrier trailer, layna lumi, was officially named and blessed on Thursday 8 June in a special ceremony held at the Austins Ferry campus.

The event was marked by a traditional smoking ceremony, which paid respect to and acknowledged muwinina Elders, community and Country and cleansed those present on the site.

Guests also enjoyed a joyous performance of Yul Lill by the Prep and Year 1 students.

Thank you to Mrs Bridget Jenkins, Mr Jamie Graham-Blair, Mr Mark Smith and Mr Trent Prouse for their coordination and organisation, along with the support of numerous staff and departments to bring this event to fruition.

The water carrier trailer, together with safety equipment, was purchased with part of the prizemoney St Virgil's received as winner of the Reconciliation Australia 2021 Narragunnawali Schools Awards, which recognise and celebrate schools and their implementation of outstanding reconciliation initiatives.

Translated to 'water here' or 'place of fresh water' in palawa kani, layna lumi will assist the College in managing its Cool Burning program.

The program draws on the deep

connection First Nations people have with the land, highlighting the key role that cool burning practices have played in Tasmania's culture and history.

Through the program, students will learn about First Nations land management strategies, supporting an understanding of ways to restore Country and care for it for generations to come.

Situated on the Country of muwinina people, St Virgil's walks hand in hand with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to achieve a just and reconciled island for all First Nations people.

Reconciliation is embedded at all levels of the College—from the strategic plan and inclusion of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in its work, to the way in which caring for Country is prioritised on the campus grounds.

In partnering with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali online platform, St Virgil's provides practical ways to introduce meaningful learning initiatives in classrooms and beyond.

A critical component of this has been in providing educators with access to professional learning and curriculum resources to support the implementation of the ACARA Cross Curricular Priority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives into all curriculum areas.

Beyond the classroom, the reconciliation journey extends to the College's surroundings, where students are immersed in contemporary challenges including land management, rehabilitation and climate change.

Such opportunities allow students to develop an appreciation for, and greater understanding of, Aboriginal knowledge, culture, tradition and practices as they engage in learning opportunities within the surrounding muwinina landscape, accompanied by members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

In addition to the Cool Fire Burning program, initiatives such as lowamakana, the Nine Nations Path, the Children's Peace Garden and the Interpretive Cultural Walk all help to include staff, students and families in a shared commitment to reconciliation.

We were honoured that the event was attended by Karen Mundine – CEO of Reconciliation Australia, Uncle Rodney Dillon – Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder, and representatives from Edmund Rice Education Australia, Reconciliation Australia, the Narragunnawali Reconciliation Education team and Reconciliation Tasmania.





Scholarships & Bursaries



A strong learning culture permeates St Virgil's College, where effort and achievement in study is aspired to and celebrated.

Individual student's interests, talents and abilities are nurtured, and young men are challenged and supported to attain the best academic, wellbeing and co-curricular outcomes.

It is pleasing to see so many boys at the College working hard towards being the best version of themselves.

To help students reach their educational goals, St Virgil's offers a range of Academic Scholarships open to new and continuing students entering into Senior Secondary.

The College's scholarship program is designed to reward and encourage students who demonstrate academic excellence and who display a commitment to their studies, who maintain an active involvement in the arts, community service and sport, and who exhibit an unwavering pride and loyalty to the school.

For those who are successful, these scholarships reaffirm their level of excellence and the College's belief in their abilities and potential.

Scholarships are determined via academic testing conducted by Edutest, an education assessment organisation that specialises in scholarship exams.

Thanks to the generosity of the Old

Virgilians Association and other College benefactors, the College also offers a number of bursaries to boys who have displayed all-round excellence during their time at the College.

Bursaries are for two years and incorporate areas such as academic learning, leadership, music, the arts, outdoor education, service and co-curricular activities.

Candidates for bursaries are required to submit an application that demonstrates their achievements and commitment to their studies and College life.

Congratulations and well done to the following students who have been successful in attaining scholarships and bursaries for 2024.

LEO DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Daniel Mulcahy

This Scholarship is awarded in honour of the first day student of St Virgil's College, Leo Doyle. Leo was an academic and prize-winner throughout this education and went on to be held in high honour in the legal profession.

OLD VIRGILIANS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Alexander Davies

This Scholarship is awarded to a student who honours all facets of College life and academic excellence shown by so many of our past students.

SIR JOHN GALVIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chandler Bradley

This Scholarship is awarded in memory of Sir John Galvin. Sir John Galvin showed great respect for the Christian Brothers and was known for being larger than life, his success in business and, above all, his service to God.

2024 ALL-ROUND EXCELLENCE BURSARIES

Oliver Morgan
Saxon Van Anholt
Thomas Coad
Lachlan Gillie

Pictured left: Alexander Davies, Lachlan Gillie, Daniel Mulcahy, Saxon Van Anholt, Oliver Morgan and Thomas Coad.
Pictured inset: Chandler Bradley.



A Feast of the Senses

As darkness descended on the College, light, sound, colour and movement converged in a multi-sensory celebration of student art, creativity and culture.

The Virgilian spirit was illuminated for all to see at the third annual Choomalaka Festival & Feast, which opened to the St Virgil's College community on Friday 22 September.

This year's event saw large crowds flock to the Austins Ferry campus to experience an immersive program showcasing the diverse skills and talents of students from both the Junior and Senior School across visual and performing arts, music, design, science and technology and hospitality.

Among the many highlights of the evening were performances by the Kindergarten to Year 4 students in the Joyce Performance Centre, whose uplifting vocals and musical repertoires entertained and delighted audiences.

The Year 5-6 band showcased their talents in the Callan Centre courtyard, watched over by parents and carers in the tiered seating, while the magical harmonies of the Junior School choir emanating from atop the Doyle Wing deck rounded out the Junior School music offerings.

A variety of acts by Senior School musicians kept the tunes flowing, with guitar solos and the rock band finishing the night off with a bang.

The newly completed Doyle Wing was also on full display. Festivalgoers roamed the two levels of the facility where they enjoyed Drama performances and marvelled at student artworks spanning a diverse range of mediums. In the Science space, billycart displays and chemistry demonstrations captivated visitors.

The Callan Centre courtyard served as the hub for food and feasting. Stalls, operated by the Parents & Friends Association, proved popular with hungry students and families

who tucked into nachos, sausages, hot dogs, fairy floss and ice creams.

This year saw the return of the popular Boomalaka Bar, operated by the Year 9-10 Introduction to Hospitality students who served their specialty shakes and iced drinks from the Callan Centre Student Lounge.

Guests were also treated to a wide variety of food trucks onsite offering loaded fries and po'boys, dumplings and bao buns, woodfired pizza and a selection of hot beverages, while striking fire pits made by metalwork students added to the atmosphere.

Thank you to all staff, students, families and the Parents & Friends Association who together contributed to the event's success.





It's not every day a helicopter lands on your school oval, but that was the reality for the College's Junior School students, who were thrilled to receive a special visit from the Westpac Lifesaving Rescue Helicopter crew on Friday 2 June.

Students and staff gathered on the Austins Ferry Main Oval to watch the iconic helicopter circle the St Virgil's Senior School before descending from the sky, with the children's cheers and shrieks of delight heard over the choppy sounds of the propeller.

The visit was organised and facilitated by Prep Teacher Miss Stacey King as part of the cohort's focus on community and helping others, and the awestruck Preps were front and centre to witness all the action and excitement, ahead of students from Year 1 to Year 6.

Once the helicopter safely touched down and the crew—including the pilot and specialist first responders—emerged from the aircraft, students and staff were introduced to the vital work that those involved in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service undertake every day in support of all Tasmanians.



Spirits High for Flying Visit

Crew members were more than happy to field questions from the group. The curious students were eager to know all the details of their respective roles in the service and their heroic stories involving search and rescues, remote airlifts and medical evacuations.

The highlight of the visit was the rare opportunity to view the helicopter up close and see inside the cockpit and cabin.

Students received a firsthand demonstration of the lifesaving equipment on board—such as night goggles and radio navigation tools—designed to help the crew

deal with critical missions and operate safely in some of the state's most unforgiving and rugged terrain.

Armed with newfound knowledge about what they can do to stay safe in an emergency, many of the boys are now inspired to consider future careers as pilots, flight paramedics and police officers.

The College thanks the Westpac staff for providing this opportunity and for being so generous with their time. The visit will be a lasting memory for all staff and students who were in attendance.

In Their Own Words

For College parent Andrew Pinelli it seems like just yesterday that his son, James, was graduating Kindergarten.

Fast-forward a little over a decade, and James is now in Year 11 at St Virgil's College, looking ahead to a bright future.

From their first tentative days in the Junior School, where their lifelong educational journey begins, to attending their graduation as young men in Year 12—ready to move into the wider world with confidence—boys at St Virgil's encounter a thousand steps as they travel through the College.

Understandably, a lot has changed since James commenced Year 3 at the College in 2015—the biggest, recalls Andrew, being “the granting for the College to offer a Kindergarten to Year 12 education for our young men.”

“This obviously meant considerable changes to the buildings and facilities at both campuses, as well as an extensive building program,” he adds.

“As a parent, it was reassuring that St Virgil's College had done a lot of planning prior to the extended offerings as it made the transition a seamless one.”

As is the way with forward steps, Junior School soon gives way to Senior School. In the middle years, the teaching philosophy is centred on collaborative learning and activities that build relationships and enriching life experiences.

The momentum has shifted in a new direction with introduction of Year 11 and 12. Students engage in experiences that allow them the opportunity to grow and develop into the very best young men they can be; conversations revolve around picking pathways, exploring career options, and serving as leaders in their communities.

On James' transition to Senior Secondary education, Andrew says it has been a pleasing experience.

“We have been well informed about the wide range of educational and co-curricular offerings at the College. These have been important for building relationships between the young men, as well as with the staff,” he says.

“The course counselling has been especially helpful as we have tried to navigate the complexities and offerings for Year 11 and 12.”

“In some ways, the fact that James is known by staff already is an advantage; it's meant that well informed suggestions and assistance can be offered that are specially tailored for his needs—this, in our opinion, is just one of the many strengths of an all-boys College.”

“James has continued to foster good relationships with his peers and the staff.”

Andrew says James has enjoyed the 'extra privileges' that have been afforded to the Year 11 boys in 2023, particularly the new Callan Centre.

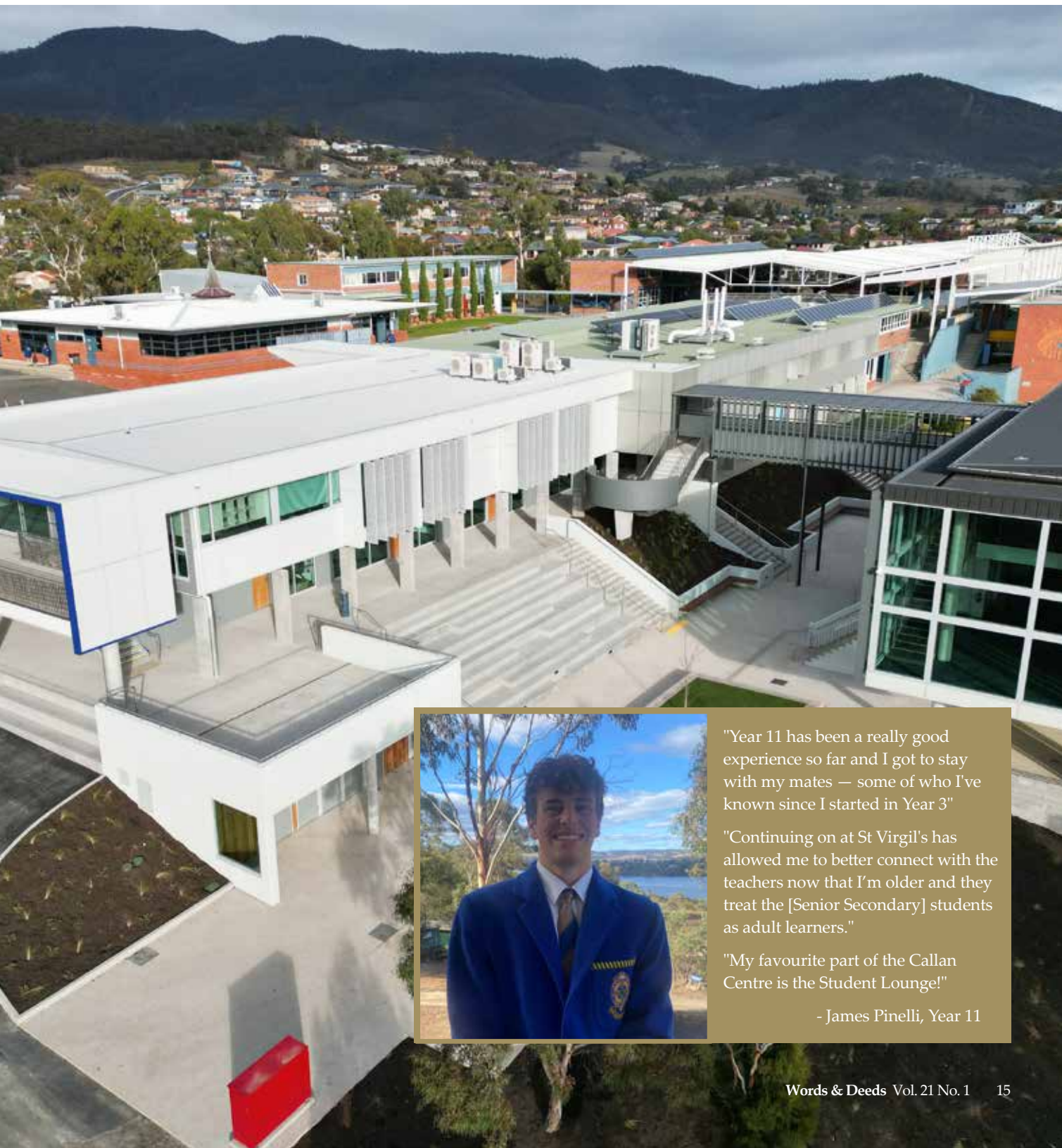
He believes the life lessons that James has received throughout his education will stand him in good stead as he moves on to his final chapter at the College next year.

“James has continued to foster good relationships with his peers and the staff. He has continued to grow as a good young man thanks to the moulding through the Virgilian Way, both formally and informally,” Andrew says.

And although achieving independence is an essential part of the journey to adulthood, Andrew admits it is reassuring that there are always opportunities for parents and families to be involved in the life of the College too.

“This shows the College wants to build relationships with families of the young men who attend,” he says.





"Year 11 has been a really good experience so far and I got to stay with my mates — some of who I've known since I started in Year 3"

"Continuing on at St Virgil's has allowed me to better connect with the teachers now that I'm older and they treat the [Senior Secondary] students as adult learners."

"My favourite part of the Callan Centre is the Student Lounge!"

- James Pinelli, Year 11



RISING SPORTS STARS

St Virgil's College students have excelled in sport this year, with a large contingent of boys selected to compete in national and international competitions.

Congratulations to the following students:

Lewis Finlay (Year 4) won bronze in the Australian U10 team in the VITI Futsal Cup in Fiji.

Henry Willis (Year 7) represented Australia in Italy at the Montesilvano Futsal Cup in the U13 division.

Elijah Monaghan (Year 11) finished second in the Junior European Open (Golf) in England and will compete in Spain in November.

Isaac (Year 5) and Jacob (Year 6) Hayes competed in the Judo

National Championships, and won gold and silver (respectively) in the Adelaide International Judo Open.

Charlie Marsden (Year 7) represented Tasmania at the U13 Australian Teams Tennis Championships and the U12 Australian Hardcourt Championships.

Asher Scott (Year 7) represented Tasmania in the U14 team and competed at National Youth Touch Football Championships.

Archie Ferguson, Oscar Butterworth-Barry, Liam Quinn and William Anderson (Year 7) represented Tasmania at the 2023 Water Polo Australia U13 Development Carnival. Henry Mollon (Year 8), Oliver Byrne, Charlie Cubit and Harry Costello (Year 9) represented Tasmania at the U16 Australian Youth Water

Photo: The Mercury

Nayte is as Good as Gold

The sky's the limit for Nayte Ackerley, who has made his mark on the global stage after a successful outing at the 2023 World Dwarf Games.

Accompanied by his proud dad, the St Virgil's College Year 11 student and local basketball sensation travelled to Cologne, Germany at the end of July to represent Australia at the event.

Nayte scored two goals (four points) against the never-beaten USA side to secure the win for his team (30-3) and bring home gold.

Akin to the Olympics and Paralympics, the event takes place every four years and is the largest international sporting event held exclusively for athletes with

dwarfism. Athletes compete in a variety of sports including basketball, archery, powerlifting and volleyball in a supportive environment that promotes an even playing field.

At just 16 years of age, Nayte was the youngest player on the Australian team and the only representative from Tasmania.

His sporting achievements demonstrate his incredible tenacity, as well as his admirable mental and physical endurance against a highly competitive international field. His results at the games have also raised the profile of Tasmanian dwarf sports to an unprecedented level.

Nayte has had a long-held interest in basketball. He was first introduced to the game by a friend at school and

quickly fell in love with the sport.

From there he has never looked back. Nayte plays club basketball for New Norfolk and it was at the club that he first heard about the World Dwarf Games and set his sights to try out.

His hard work and determination to the sport have paid off in spades. While becoming a world champion has catapulted him to international sports star status, Nayte, now aged 17, still plays for both school and club and referees when the need arises.

Nayte plans to continue to pursue his basketball glory and hopes to contest the next World Dwarf Games, which will be held in Australia in 2027, proudly donning the green and gold.

Polo Championships. Charlie, Harry, Oliver, along with Riley O'Conner (Year 9) represented Tasmania at the U15 National State Water Polo Championships.

Darcy Hickey and Nash Benson (Year 7) won the U14B Grand Final at the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup.

Ryan Lamprey (Year 7), Samuel Hughes (Year 8), Jack Skelly, Alex Lamprey, Connor Byers (Year 9) and Charles Lennon (Year 11) also represented Basketball Tasmania in this competition.

Lucan Donovan (Year 8) participated in the AusCycling Enduro Mountain Bike National Championships.

Noah Smith (Year 8) represented Tasmania in the

State of Origin Tournament as a part of the Football Tasmania's Talent Support Program for U14 Boys.

Viktor Gordon and Luke Morrisby (Year 9) represented Tasmania in the U15 Team at the 2023 National Youth Football (Soccer) Championships.

Henry Reason (Year 9) competed in the National Futsal Championships, earning a place in the Allstar National Team. Jacob Clothier and Malachi Smith (Year 11) represented Tasmania in the U16 team.

Hamish Beechey (Year 9) represented Tasmania at the U16 National Indoor Cricket Championships.

Alex Lamprey (Year 9) was named in the Tasmanian U16 Basketball Team to compete in

the National Championships. Hugh McCallum (Year 9) was named as a reserve.

Hugh McCallum, Archie Devine and Benjamin Barwick (Year 9) represented Tasmania in the U15 Australian Football School Sport Australia Championships. Archie was also selected as a part of the U15 All Australian team.

Xavier Wright (Year 9) was selected as a member of the 2023 Tasmanian Institute of Sport Talent ID Squad.

Lachlan Davey, Riley Davie, Jye Millward, Tom Prokopiec and Anthony Volta (Year 10) represented Tasmania at the U16 AFL National Development Championships.

Lewis Kenny (Year 10) competed in the National Clay

Target Shooting Junior Titles.

Oliver Morgan (Year 10) won silver in the U18 5km race walk at the Australian All School Championships.

Charles Lennon (Year 11) represented Tasmania at the U18 National Basketball Championships.

Edison Lee and Elijah Monaghan (Year 11) competed in the Australian Junior Amateur Golf representing Tasmania.

Sam Nadler (Year 11) represented Tasmania at the 2023 New Zealand Short Course Swimming Championships.

James Pinelli (Year 11) was crowned the National Champion in the Youth Division at the 44th Australian Sabre Championships.

Enhancing the Learning Journey

If there is one quality that Michael Farrell finds admirable in the students at St Virgil's, it is their ability to "front up and give it a red hot go."

"I like their resilience, no matter where they are in their personal journey," Michael says.

As the Head of Learning Enhancement in the Senior School, Michael is inspired daily by the St Virgil's College values which guide and inform his work and interactions.

In Michael's opinion, a learning environment that cultivates kindness and empathy, and in which staff and students are supportive of one another, is critical for positive student engagement and wellbeing.

"In the words of a former student and Learning Support Officer: 'It's cool to be kind'," he says.

It goes without saying that every student has the right to

a high-quality education that challenges them and allows them to make meaningful progress in their learning.

The College's approach to Learning Enhancement is founded on this very belief and it is one that is relevant to all boys, although of particular importance to those with specific needs, either for extension, enrichment, support or modification.

At its core, Learning Enhancement is about implementing practices which reflect the College's commitment to ensuring each student is provided with the accommodations required to support their learning.

The aim is to encourage all students to engage in the learning experience to the best of their ability—but this is a shared experience, as Michael explains.

"Learning Enhancement is offering support when necessary to the boys; it means being patient and being on their learning journey with them."



Operating out of a purpose-built learning centre, Learning Enhancement at St Virgil's is a vibrant and integral part of the College's learning community.

Sue Burrows, Head of Learning Enhancement in the Junior School, agrees, adding that a continual journey towards a shared vision is a hallmark of an inclusive school culture which enhances the educational opportunities and outcomes for all students.

"I love working with families to support their child and to make a positive impact," she says.

"It's a wonderful feeling seeing the students show up to their lessons with energy and determination."

When seeking directives for inclusive education, Sue refers to the St Virgil's touchstone of Inclusive Community—a community that is learning, growing, and flourishing together in all its diversity.

"Strong partnerships between parents, community and educators are the most effective way to support a child's learning and ensure their needs are met," Sue says.

The program is available for those students who, after a series of assessments, are found to be experiencing difficulties accessing the curriculum at their age level and require additional support in and beyond the classroom.

Under the guidance of Michael and Sue, a highly skilled team of Learning Support Officers work with the students, teachers, and parents to develop strategies to enable students with learning differences to access the curriculum at their level and, in turn, achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

With input from families, College Psychologists and Counsellor, the team oversees the development and implementation of individual learning plans and assists with determining appropriate interventions and adjustments to the mainstream curriculum or learning environment.

"Readily communicating with Learning Enhancement staff, being aware of their son's Learning Enhancement



profile and raising any concerns as they come about are all ways that families can support their child's learning in this space," Michael says.

Opportunities for Learning Enhancement are many and varied, ranging from in-classroom support for individuals and small groups, and out-of-class programs such as literacy intervention, mathematics intervention or social emotional support.

Students are also afforded opportunities for extension and enrichment learning activities.

Michael, who in his spare time coaches U15 boys at the Cricket Tasmania Youth Academy, reminds families and staff that sometimes a little bit of praise also has the power to motivate learners and build self-esteem.

"Recognising and celebrating your child's small wins can go a long way to encouraging a positive mindset. It's a win-win," he says.

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)
Zac Piesse (SVC 2008-11)
Chris Wright (SVC 1966-73)

Website

www.oldvirgilians.org.au

The Old Virgilians Association 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



ST VIRGIL'S
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2023 Events

OVA Annual Golf Day

Entries are now closed for the 62nd OVA Annual Golf Day. Our biggest OVA event of the year is sure to be a hit. Results will be published in the monthly OVAtions newsletter.

When: Friday 10 November

Time: 12.30 pm shot gun start

Where: Royal Hobart Golf Club, Seven Mile Beach

Enquiries: Michael Harvey on 0417 393 304 or email rooboy@bigpond.net.au.

Class of 1993 Reunion

Calling Class of '93! Your 30-year reunion is sure to be a great evening to reminisce about College life and get together with your SVC cohort.

When: Saturday 18 November

Time: 6.00 pm

Where: Maypole Hotel, New Town

RSVP: Gene Graham on 0422 115 359 or email genekg@gmail.com.

Memorial Mass & Luncheon

A Memorial Mass will be held to remember those who have passed. This special event shows our community spirit as we gather in strength and support

When: Tuesday 21 November

Time: 11.00 am

Where: St Virgil's College Chapel, Austins Ferry

RSVP: Graeme Rainbow on 0467 514 667 or email rainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au.

Class of 1983 Reunion

Further details are to come. Phil will communicate further once initial interest has been gained.

RSVP: Phil Gard on 0411 254 315 or email prtgard@gmail.com.

End of Year Drinks

Come along to this casual social event ahead of the busy Christmas period. Enjoy your first drink on us!

When: Friday 1 December

Time: 6.00 pm

Where: Maypole Hotel, New Town

RSVP: Graeme Rainbow on 0467 514 667 or email rainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au OR indicate your interest on the Old Virgilians Association Facebook page event.

Bi-Monthly Luncheon

Enjoy a meal with a mate or two and stay up-to-date with all things SVC! A cost of \$30 (payable on the day) will cover a two-course meal from a broad menu.

When: Details will be confirmed in 2024 in the OVAtions newsletter

Where: Maypole Hotel, New Town

Enquiries: Graeme Rainbow on 0467 514 667 or email rainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au.

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.



“ Events such as these enable us to connect with more Old Virgilians and receive their input into the future aspirations of the OVA. ”

President's Message

This year we have actively engaged with the College to understand how Old Virgilians can better retain the connection with the College and its activities, as well as ways in which Old Virgilians can contribute to the future success of the College, its community and students.

These initiatives are still under development but will include enhanced communications in forms more suitable for sharing information and to reflect greater use of modern technology where appropriate. I can report good positive progress on this front.

The Old Virgilians considered an application from the College to support the enhancement of its student training kitchen and have indicated its support for that proposal. This will be of considerable benefit for Year 11 and 12 students – currently and in the future and is consistent with the objectives of OVA.

During this year I have been invited to attend a range of College events and I have been most impressed with the calibre and passion of our teachers and students. I see in action the success of the College in addressing issues of inclusion and diversity at all levels. This provides great encouragement that our students will be positive contributors to their communities.

By the time this edition of Words & Deeds has gone to

print, the OVA's Melbourne Reunion would have been held. With more than 50 confirmed attendees, I look forward to providing an update about this event in the next OVAtions eNewsletter. Events such as these enable us to connect with more Old Virgilians and receive their input into the future aspirations of the OVA. I am most encouraged by your support and it gives your Committee the enthusiasm and desire to take a greater role in the future of the College and its students.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as part of our Annual Dinner at the end of the first quarter of 2024 and I intend to use this occasion to report back to all members the feedback we have received from you and the Committee's plan for the next few years.

Calendar details of the Association's 2024 activities will be included in the OVAtions monthly eNewsletter. All editions of the newsletter can be viewed on the Association's website, www.oldvirgilians.org.au.

I wish students every success as we head to the end of the academic year and hope that our extended community has a happy and safe festive season in the company of their loved ones.

I am and remain a proud Old Virgilian.

David Mazengarb
Old Virgilians Association President

High Achievers

Commodore Stephen 'Sid' Dalton RAN



Stephen Dalton was the middle of five children raised in Moonah with two older sisters and two younger brothers, David (SVC 1977-85) and Peter (SVC 1979-87) by his parents Doris and Tony (SVC 1944-51).

Stephen proved to be a good student at St Virgil's and was involved with

rowing, football and cadets.

During high school he decided that he would pursue a life at sea and had applied to join the Navy as a Junior Entry sailor in 1979, but was about three months too young. With his good academic results he was advised to re-apply as an officer when he was older, which he did during Year 11.

He successfully passed the Officer Selection Board and was offered a Year 12 scholarship and Senior Entry as a Midshipman in 1983. However, when Navy Careers saw his Year 11 results in early January 1982 his results were deemed good enough for a University of NSW enrolment.

In a few weeks, he packed his bags and flew to Sydney on 15 January, meeting up with the rest of his class to start training at the Royal Australian Naval College.

Stephen completed his new entry training and first year of university before moving to HMAS Watson in Sydney to complete his studies at the University of NSW. Sometime during his first year in the Navy he picked up the nickname 'Sid', which has stuck ever since.

He graduated from the Royal Australian Naval College with a Bachelor of Science in 1984 before transferring to submarines in 1986 and completing his Submarine Officers Training Course at HMAS Platypus and qualifying as a submariner and being awarded 'dolphins' in 1987 in HMAS Oxley.

For the next few years he progressed through various jobs in the submarines Oxley, Orion and Otway. During this time Stephen married his wife Janice, whom he'd met during his submarine training time. After brief service at Maritime Headquarters – where they welcomed their first son – he completed the Submarine Warfare Officers Course in 1992 and was awarded the inaugural Sword of Honour as the top student. He completed the first Royal Netherlands Navy Submarine Command Course 'Perisher' and commanded the submarine HMAS Onslow from April 1996 to October 1997.

Promoted to Captain in October 2005, he served as Captain Submarines at the Submarine Headquarters in Western Australia until December 2008.

Completing a Defence Strategic Studies Course in 2009, graduating with a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies, Stephen then served at Headquarters Joint Operations Command at Bungendore near Canberra. His next role was as Director Submarine Development.

Transitioning to the Navy Reserves in February 2017, Stephen served as the initial Director Undersea Warfare and Advanced Submarine Systems, which included initiating a project for an Integrated Undersea Surveillance System and a number of related undersea capability initiatives.

In February 2021 he joined the Defence Capability Enhancement Review under VADM Mead, and transferred to his current role as Director General Nuclear Powered Submarine Capability Development in September 2021, as part of the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce.

He was promoted to Commodore as a full-time Reserve officer in December 2021 and clocked up 41 years of service in January 2022.

A Servant of the Supreme Court of Tasmania

Stephen Holt recently announced his retirement from the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

Stephen commenced at St Virgil's College in 1967 and gained his graduated Year 12 in 1973. In his final year at the College, he was a member of the First XI and of the second XVIII.

He graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1979 and was admitted to legal practice in 1981. He is a past President of the Tasmanian Bar Association.

He was a partner of the Hobart law firm Murdoch Clarke from 1985 to 1999, specialising in defamation and local government, town planning and environmental law.

Stephen James Holt was appointed to the position of

Master of the Supreme Court of Tasmania in September 1999. In March 2008 the office of Master was renamed to Associate Judge.

He was a lecturer at the Centre for Legal Studies and the Court's representative on the Harmonisation of Rules Committee, an advisory committee established by the Council of Chief Justice.



Your May Now Call Him Doctor

Tyson Bessell attended St Virgil's from Year 3 all the way through to Year 10, graduating from SVC in 2012.



He then moved onto Guilford Young College and soon after began his studies at the University of Tasmania, where he completed a Bachelor of Marine and Antarctic Science in 2017.

In 2018 he completed an

Honours study year, where he worked with University of Tasmania/IMAS and CSIRO on a threatened species of fish. Then in 2019 he began working towards completing a PhD.

His research project focused on the critically endangered Red Handfish, a small and quirky-looking fish that's only found in Tasmania, and is arguably the rarest fish in the world. Tyson's work involved regularly diving and monitoring these small fish, with the aim of trying to learn new information and come up with ways to help prevent the species becoming extinct.

He recently completed his PhD and graduated in August 2023. All up, he has completed nearly eight years of tertiary education, all amounting to his recent PhD in Marine Conservation.

Tyson is now working for the University at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies as a threatened species biologist, continuing his work on conservation of endangered marine fishes, and regularly diving and teaching as part of that role.

Visiting the College

Old Rowers Reminiscing

The surviving members of the 1953 winning Head of the River crew met up at Austins Ferry to celebrate the 70th anniversary of that feat and to view the shell suspended from the roof of the Centenary History Centre.

Pictured below: John Colrain (cox), Doug Hughes (member of the 1951 winning crew), Roger Smart (3 seat) and Fr Graeme Howard (bow). Sadly John Wilmshurst (2) and Fr Bill Egan (stroke) have passed away.



What Makes a Man

Old Virgilians were invited to return to the College to to address Year 9 students who had begun a unit entitled 'What is a Man of St Virgil's College?'

James Sherman (SVC 2002-05), Tom Sherman (SVC 2003-06), Dr Scott Parkes (SVC 1972-77), Will Lincoln (SVC 2008-15), Graeme Rainbow (SVC 1957-63), Paul Taranto (SVC 1981-86), Dr Nicholas Direen (SVC 1986-91) and Will Geeves (SVC 2009-11) were up for the challenge to share their wisdom with the students.

The students were presented with the CVs of the eight visitors in advance and prepared questions about their experience of the College and to expand on their life values.

Order in the House

Mark Monaghan (SVC 1980-85) visited his alma mater during a short visit to Hobart to celebrate his mother's birthday.

Mark serves as MP for the Australian Labor Party in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly for the electoral division of Fong Lim as of 2020. He is currently the 14th Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly after being elected on 23 May 2022 following the appointment of the previous Speaker Ngaree Ah Kit to cabinet.

Mark worked as a teacher prior to entering politics and has lived in the Northern Territory for over 20 years. He met his wife Michelle while working there and together they have three children.

During his teaching period in the Territory, Mark was College Director on Groote Eylandt, followed by being College Director of Jabiru and and Gunbalanya College in Kakadu.

After teaching, he spent time as the General Manager of Engineers Australia and then became a Regional Director of Pritchard Francis, an award winning Civil and Structural Engineering Consultancy. Since 2018, he has served as Board Chair of Inspiring Australia NT – a body focusing on the promotion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics).

Mark's two brothers, Steven (SVC 1977-83) and Eric (SVC 1982-87), also attended the College.



Return of a Day One Student

Roy Chivers (SVC 1960-63) visited the Austins Ferry Campus in late April and provided the following contribution.

"I fondly remember my time at Austins Ferry, especially arriving on the first day on the St Virgil's train from Hobart Railway Station. We disembarked at the special siding and excitedly walked up the hill to our new school. We were met by the Principal Br Clohesy and his staff of four. During my first year at Austins Ferry I was chosen to be one of several prefects and I was also the first drum major of the St Virgil's Band and the St Virgil Cadet Band.

The campus has certainly changed since that first day!

When I left St Virgil's I started working for radio station 7HT as a Panel Operator. I moved to ABT Channel 2 Outside Broadcast Department where I was trained up to be a camera operator. After several years I moved to Melbourne and worked for ATV Channel O (now TEN) in the camera department. Then moved to Perth and worked at TVW 7 as a camera operator, producer/director, before heading over to Sydney to work at TEN 10 as a camera operator.

Television stations in the 60s and 70s were very exciting and busy places to work; all channels had large production departments and produced many programs in house.

I was lucky enough to work on shows including Showcase, Uptight, Young Talent Time, Number 96, Mike Walsh Show, New Faces and AFL and NRL football. On 17 December 1967, I was the ATV0 news cameraman and a member of the first crew to cover the search for missing Prime Minister Harold Holt, at Cheviot Beach near Portsea in Victoria. I spent several days there covering the search, news conferences and interviewing members of the emergency services, family and public.

In 1975 I travelled to the UK in search of fame and fortune. I did not find either but was lucky enough to secure employment at ATV in Birmingham before moving to Thames Television in London. I was with Thames TV for many years working as a cameraman in the studios on programs such as Kenny Everett Show, Rumpole of the Bailey, The Bill, Morecombe and Wise Shows, Benny Hill Shows and many others. I eventually transferred to news



and current affairs as a cameraman. Working for news provided opportunities for travel - I had many trips to European cities for major news events and sporting events. For my work I was lucky enough to meet Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and other members of the royal family including Princess Diana. I was involved in the coverage of Charles and Diana's wedding, and many other royal events of note over the years. I was also involved in coverage of Pope John Paul's visit to London in 1982, the IRA bombing campaign in mainland Britain, Royal Ascot and FA Cup Finals at Wembley Stadium. I covered so many amazing news and sporting events during my time in the United Kingdom and progressed at Thames to the position of Resource Manager News and Current Affairs.

I returned to Australia in 1993 having successfully applied for a position with the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) in Sydney. I worked as Production Coordinator at SBS for several years before joining Sky Racing TV here in Sydney as Studio Manager.

It's a family joke, I left Australia in 1975 as a backpacker to travel and hopefully obtain employment in UK Television — I returned to Australia 20 years later with a wife and two children and a lot more luggage than a backpack along with heaps of happy memories.

I consider myself to have been incredibly lucky over the years of my employment in radio and television, having met many fascinating people and made many friends."

Sporting Honours

An Extraordinary Feat

Nathan Earle (SVC 2003-2004) has been road cycling professionally since 2008 and despite being marred by a string of significant setbacks, he has been able persevere with his sport and had some significant results, not least of which were victories in the Tour of Japan and in the Tour of Thailand.

Amongst his injuries in recent years, Nathan was T-boned by a semi-trailer while out on a training ride in Japan. That crash very nearly took his life and made him question whether he wanted to race a bike again. He was in hospital for three weeks and not permitted to fly for home to his wife and three children another three weeks.

He had three and a half months off the bike. When he tried to ride again in November but every time he turned the pedals he just started getting a headache when the blood got flowing. He gave up and didn't ride until December on a trainer.

When the Tour of Taiwan came up in March and his team, Team UKYO, convinced him not to participate and to focus on getting better.

The next major event on the Asian Circuit was the Tour of Thailand which ran for six days (1-6 April), 1 033 km with 89 riders. It was a bit nerve-wracking for him just being back on the bike and moving in the peloton, but he got through it well, finishing a creditable 27th.

Fast forward to 21 May, Nathan fronted the starter to defend his Tour of Japan title. Sixteen teams – 96 riders, 718 km over eight days, where Nathan Earle finished as the winner.



World Champion Coach

Congratulations to **Michael Di Venuto (SVC 1986-91)** on his contribution to Australia's win in the World Test Cricket Championship against India 7-11 June at the Oval in London. Michael is the batting coach for the Australian Team.

Michael has had a stellar career in cricket as both a player and a coach, and was added to the St Virgil's College Heritage Roll of Honour in 2009.



Prospective Tasmanian AFL Club Announcement

The inaugural board of the prospective Tasmanian AFL club has been announced, comprising of business, finance, governance, community and football experts.

Recently retired legend of the game **Jack Riewoldt (SVC 2001-04)** will also play a key role in the team's formation.

The eight-person board was revealed on the 12 September, with Richmond great Riewoldt to be confirmed as the club's official culture lead, ahead of a tipped 2028 start date.

In a statement, the club said that Riewoldt "will work to build the DNA of the club" through a program called "The Fabric".

Riewoldt said he was excited to play a role.

"The Fabric will represent each and every strand that makes up the rich tapestry of our club — who we are, what we stand for, what we believe in, our history and our collective vision for the future."

Sam Does It Again

Sam Siggins (SVC 2007-10) has won his third Alistair Lynch Medal (formerly known as the Tassie Medal). This medal is awarded to the best player in the Tasmanian Statewide Football League and Sam has previously achieved the feat in 2020 and 2022.

In his final roster for season 2023, Sam picked up three votes in a match where his team, Lauderdale, defeated the more fancied Launceston in no small measure to Sam's amazing performance – he finished with 41 disposals, 23 contested possessions, 10 inside 50s, 16 clearances and amassed 220 ranking points.

Interstate Football returned to the North Hobart Oval on 1 July, with a Tasmanian combination defeating a



Queensland team in a closely fought match. At the end of this match, Sam was awarded the Lefroy Medal for his best-afield performance.

It has been a remarkable few years for the 29-year-old former Adelaide draftee since returning home again after playing the 2018 season in with Geelong in the VFL.

Hockey Success

North West Graduates had outstanding success in the senior sections of Southern Tasmania Hockey League. The club achieved the double – winning both the men's and womens senior titles for the first time in 30 years.

In the men's final NW Grads defeated University 3-2. The victorious team had a significant Old Virgilian component – Alistair White (coach), Tyson and Harvey Bessell, James Bourke and Angus McMullen, whilst OV Josh Brookes was part of the Uni team. Alistair, Harvey and Josh along with Jack Welch and Gobindraj Gill are OV members of the Tassie Tigers squad playing in the national competition – the coach for which is another OV, Stephen McMullen.

How Sweet It Is!

Saturday 9 September was a day to remember. After years of struggle and a tremendous amount of effort, St Virgil's Old Scholars Football Team won its first senior premiership in 22 years. Congratulations to the committee, team and all who have been party to this success for a club. SVOSFC 22.17 (149) defeated University 7.6 (48).

Saints President Joel Berry said while on field success has eluded the senior side in recent years - off field it was in a strong position to land a big fish when the time was right.

Congratuatiions to Jaye Bowden on being the joint winner of the Southern Old Scholars Football League Best & Fairest Medal, Alex Blair on being the Association's leading Goal Scorers for 2023, and to the captain team, Luke Potter, Daniel Copleman, Sam Reeves, John Geard and Rayan Wakefield, along with Jaye and Alex, who were members of the Association's 'Team of the Year'.

Jaye also had the honour of being named coach of the team.

Congratulations also to the Lady Saints on its Grand Final victory – 7.8 (50) def. Dodges Ferry 1.3 (9) and especially to Agnes Sakina who won the Best & Fairest for the division, Holly Ryan as the leading goal scorer and Fiona Langford won the medal for Best on Ground in the Grand Final.



Award Recipients

Michael Mazengarb OAM

On the King's Birthday Public Holiday, 22 Tasmanian were named as recipients of OAMs (Medal of the Order).

Numbered amongst these was **Michael Mazengarb (SVC 1957-66)**, pictured below.

Michael's career was in the advertising, marketing and public relations area. However, he has contributed enormously as a volunteer. His citation with the award reads 'for service to the community through a range of organisations'. Among Michael's involvements have been:

- An association with Asthma Tasmania
- Board Membership of Calvary Hospital
- Board Membership of Southern Cross Care
- A Director of Taspac industries
- Established the Tasmanian arm of Kidsafe and then went on to serve as Treasurer of the national body
- Was elected to the role of National President but had to resign after a brief period due to health concerns
- Board of the Australian Institute of Sport
- Theatre Royal Board
- Board of the Rosny Children's Choir
- Volunteer work at the Queen Victoria Home

There is little wonder that he was nominated for recognition.



Michael Lowe

Michael Lowe (SVC 1989-84) commenced as the Executive Director of SES Tasmania in November 2022. His appointment to this position follows on from his 24 years in the Australian Army where he rose to the rank of Colonel.

In the 2023 King's Birthday Awards Michael was the recipient of a Commemoration for Distinguished Service (CDS) - for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Director of Future Operations for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, on Operation OKRA, from July 2021 to May 2022. Leading a diverse and multi-national team, in a highly complex and dynamic mission environment, producing coherent and analysed options for execution, Colonel Lowe displayed distinguished leadership, initiative and performance within the headquarters of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, in the defeat of Da'esh within Iraq and Syria.

Michael is the second son of former Premier, Doug Lowe (SVC 1950-59) and younger brother of Greg (SVC 1977-81).

Graeme Foale

At the recent 2023 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards gathering **Graeme Foale (SVC 1962-71)** was named the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Graeme is a highly respected member of the Hobart maritime community, having dedicated much of his life to serving in various voluntary roles in the Navy Reserve, the Royal Hobart Regatta and Lindsfarne Sailing Club. Graeme currently leads a group of skilled volunteers that maintain and charter the historic vessel M.L. Egeria, a locally built wooden motor launch that has cruised the river since 1941.

Graeme's contributions have enabled many others to enjoy time on the water and his leadership and commitment is truly inspirational.



Your prayers are requested for recently deceased Old Virgilians and for their family and friends.



Vale

GILLAM, Rex Henry
SVC 1946-53
27.05.1936 – 07.05.2023

MACGREGOR, James Albert
‘Bert’ cfc
SVC Staff 1973-79
02.11.1941 – 12.04.2023

O’KEEFE, Graham John
SVC 1956-62
24.10.1945 – 15.04.2023

SMITH, Scott William
SVC 1977-79
13.12.1964 – 13.05.2023

SYMONS, Kane William
SVC 2010-17
29.11. 2001 – 11.06.2023

DIXON, Peter Frederick
SVC 1953-62
13.04.1945 – 29.06.2023

EVANS, William ‘Bill’ John
SVC 1966-69
14.11.1953 – 03.07.2023

LANZLINGER, Robert Peter
SVC 1982-86
30.05.1969 – 18.06.2023

MACKEY, Patrick ‘Pat’ Anthony
SVC 1946-540
30.08.1937 – 17.07.2023.

BUGG, Tim
SVC 1963-70
10.03.1953 – 23.07.2023

COLLINS, Paul
SVC 1961-62
Died 09.08.2023

DENEHEY, Graeme
SVC 1948-54
01.12.1935 – 10.07.2023

HUXTABLE, George
SVC 1946-54
20.05.1938 – 05.08.2023

PICONE, Michael
SVC 1964-66
28.11.1950 – 29.08.2023

GILLON, John
SVC 1944-50
21.09.2032 – 08.09.2023

Obituaries are detailed in the monthly OVAtions newsletter.

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

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Old Virgilians Association

www.oldvirgilians.org.au

*Year 2 and Year 12 to be introduced in 2024