

# LASALLIAN ROLL CALL

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE  
ALUMNI PUBLICATION

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50 year  
anniversary  
edition



DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE

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## EDITOR

Kerry Martin

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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Additional photography by Bindi Houghton.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Fifty years ago, in May 1974, the first *Roll Call* magazine was launched by a group of enthusiastic Old Collegians. In those days, the magazine was more like a newsletter sent to paid up members of the Old Collegians Association. *Roll Call* continued in a similar format until it was relaunched in 1996 as a full colour magazine available free of charge to all Old Collegians. The magazine has changed significantly over its 50-year history and today is read by thousands of Old Collegians around the world. In this edition, we celebrate the magazine's birthday with reflections from previous editors. To celebrate its 50th birthday, the magazine has had a bit of a face lift. We hope you enjoy the fresh new look of *Roll Call* magazine.

*Kerry Martin, Editor*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the content of this biannual publication, which I look forward to and read from cover to cover with great interest. I have just read the latest *Roll Call* and I cannot praise you enough for your dedication and commitment to keeping the Lasallian family connected. Whether I read about my former students or about alumni I do not know, I equally delight in, and feel a sense of pride, at their success. I also marvel at the assortment of career paths that have stemmed from the education and care at De La Salle College. Your attendance at so many alumni reunions each year, your attention to their personal stories, and your expertise in capturing the spirit of their life's journey through your professional yet warm and welcoming journalism are a credit to you and to the College. May the love of what you do and the alumni you meet encourage you to continue this wonderful work of capturing people and places for many years to come.

*Catherine Loft*

*De La Salle teacher (1982-2021) and past parent*

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to meet you, and other De La Salle College staff, with my dear brother Tony (1957) along with other Old Collegians at the "Morning Tea with the Principal" in November. It is 65 years this week since I finished in 1958 at De La Salle Malvern and in my 82nd year I continue to be fit, healthy and happy. I have tried to pay regular attention to developments at the College over the years, but I must say that my knowledge about the College's progress has been wonderfully helped by my being sent ordinary-posted, or more recently emailed, copies of *Roll Call* magazine. I enjoy the numerous and most-informative sections of *Roll Call*, particularly concerning educational developments, the portraits of current, recent and more 'senior' students and staff, and historical and cultural activities of the College (especially about charitable, music, including the annual school musicals, choir and orchestra, and famous music graduates, in particular, my classmates Stephen McIntyre (1958) and Anthony Fenelon (1958), and sporting pursuits — and also about the lives of past students, especially through the *Rest in Peace* column. Please keep up your wonderful work in editing *Roll Call* and long may it continue.

*John Austin (1958)*



# From the Principal

This latest edition of *Roll Call* features a slightly different look, with a little more emphasis on what is happening in the College, along with all our regular features on the extraordinary life and work of a range of our Old Collegians. I do hope you enjoy hearing from a few new faces in *Roll Call*, adding to our regular articles.

All at the College are thrilled with our 2023 VCE results, which represented a strong improvement on the previous year. This was particularly pleasing as Year 12 staff invested a great deal of time, effort, collaboration and expertise into developing improvement strategies. Coupled with the traditional Lasallian quality of strong teacher/student relationships these approaches had the desired effect:

- Over 40 per cent of ATARs were in the 80s and 90s with nearly 60 per cent of our cohort attaining an ATAR above 70. For an open-entry, mixed ability school that is a tremendous achievement.
- The median Study Scores for a range of studies were well above the state average. These excellent scores would be the envy of many exclusive independent schools.
- When applying for university places, 65 per cent of the VCE graduates received their first or second preference, with 82 per cent receiving preference one to three.
- Most popular tertiary courses are in the fields of Commerce and Management, Health, Science, Engineering, Architecture and Building.

I am very pleased to announce we have entered into a formal partnership with the Old Collegians Football Club. The objective of this project is for the football club to provide expertise and coaching to the College in relation to our Australian Rules Football Program at Years 5 to 12 and in conjunction with the Director of Sport, coordinate all trainings and games. The club will provide overall liaison via their Head of Future Football, Nick Walsh, to oversee and coordinate all coaching and logistics. This initiative is designed to guarantee our footballers a high-quality experience and build a clear pathway to playing with the Old Collegians and being part of all the club has to offer beyond simply playing footy. Alternatively, we are hoping for more students to be drafted, emulating 2023 graduate Luke Lloyd, selected at number 42 by the Brisbane Lions.

As part of every school's four-to-five-year cycle, we had our Review by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) last year, with overwhelmingly positive feedback on our performance and some useful recommendations for further improvement. The resultant School Improvement Plan (SIP) contains a high degree of detail, but the pivotal emphasis is on building the capacity of our leaders to drive innovation and enrichment in learning and student outcomes. Linking staff professional learning more closely to the SIP and building on our strong links with families and community are additional priorities.



“Over 40 per cent of ATARs were in the 80s and 90s with nearly 60 per cent of our cohort attaining an ATAR above 70.”

Since we purchased the College from the Trustees of the De La Salle Brothers in late 2022, I have been working closely with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools in mapping out the future of our school. Our aim is to build on our 112 years of tradition and ensure we are here providing a high-quality Catholic, Lasallian education for at least another century. Working with key people at Executive level, in master planning, infrastructure, facilities, marketing, enrolments and finance we are developing a model of education for Malvern which will ensure our viability and long-term attractiveness to a range of students. We hope to soon be in a position to share some exciting announcements around buildings and developments.

Many of you will by now have heard the sad news of the passing of Br Gerard Rummery. Gerard was a great man; so influential within not only the De La Salle Brothers organisation worldwide, but contributed so much to Catholic, Lasallian education in so many areas. I had the pleasure and privilege of getting to know Gerard quite well in my term as Principal here and he was unfailingly supportive and always wanting to know how everything was going at Malvern. Gerard taught here from 1951 to 1964 and is remembered fondly by Old Collegians as a wonderful teacher and mentor.

I have just been on Retreat with the 2024 Year 12s, simply a tremendous group of quality young men. If they are our benchmark, all Old Collegians can rest assured De La Salle continues to develop and send out into the community graduates of character, empathy, and compassion.

*Peter Houlihan, Principal*

# From Dr Edward Simons

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In this issue of *Roll Call* we welcome Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director of Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) as a regular contributor. *Roll Call* spoke to Dr Simons about the future of the College under the MACS umbrella.

## ***What positive changes does the acquisition of De La Salle College by MACS bring to the College and its community?***

We are proud to have De La Salle College join us as part of our large and growing school network at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and for the opportunity to serve an even wider community of staff, students, and their families.

As part of MACS, the College joins the largest Catholic education system in Australia. Established by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, MACS is responsible for the care, education, and formation of over 120,000 students across the archdiocese in almost 300 schools.

The acquisition is another step in our commitment to strengthen the delivery of Catholic education in Melbourne's inner south-east. We saw a great opportunity to provide long-term stability for this wonderful school community with the continuation of more than a century of faith, tradition, heritage, and academic excellence.

Our shared ambition, together with Principal Peter Houlihan, is to build on the College's success, support the College to inspire and enable its students to flourish, and to continue to lead with passion and spirit.

## ***In your eyes, what makes a Catholic school unique?***

Catholic schools live out a distinctive educational vision with an emphasis on forming the whole person and service to community.

For MACS, this is about providing every young person with the best education possible – one in which every student is inspired and enabled to flourish and enrich the world.

Importantly, Catholic schools recognise parents as a child's first educator, working side by side with principals, teachers, and staff to educate and develop our students: emotionally, academically, physically, socially, and spiritually. This is the essence of what makes Catholic education unique and such an important part of our society.

## ***What excites you about the future of De La Salle College?***

I am excited by the future of Catholic education, including at De La Salle College.

We have the opportunity to build upon more than a century of tradition, heritage, and educational excellence for generations to come. The conversations I've had with Mr Houlihan have centred on looking at ways to expand De La Salle's academic offerings, enhance the curriculum, and provide innovative and contemporary opportunities to students.

Work is already commencing with an immediate injection of \$2m in capital funds to bring about physical improvements to the College which will be both impactful and quick to deliver.

## ***As a former teacher, principal, and current MACS parent, what do you think Catholic schools do well, and where do you think we can improve?***

I have been both privileged and humbled during my career to have both taught in classrooms and led a school as a principal, and now as a parent of three children in MACS schools, to witness the strong sense of community in our Catholic schools and parishes.

My professional journey, across a broad-range of education settings in the UK and Australia, has given me deep insight into what works best in the classroom, staffroom, in school leadership and at a system-level.

There is much to admire in our dynamic Catholic learning environments. At the same time, we can't stand still.

The recent release of our *Vision for Instruction*, the cornerstone of our teaching and learning approach, serves as an example of how we are providing a new way forward for our system, together.

You can read more about our Vision for Instruction via our website [www.macs.vic.edu.au/Our-Schools/Curriculum-Learning-Programs/Vision-for-Instruction](http://www.macs.vic.edu.au/Our-Schools/Curriculum-Learning-Programs/Vision-for-Instruction).

## ***How does becoming part of MACS change how we operate?***

Your Principal, Peter Houlihan, will continue to hold a distinctive role of leadership within the school community in a way that also seeks to maintain a connection to the liturgical and sacramental life of the school.

The College will also continue to operate within a framework that prioritises Catholic values and academic excellence and equity.

MACS will play an important role in guiding the College's future, with considerable governance expertise and financial capability that will help it successfully seize opportunities and address the challenges of the future.



*Dr Edward Simons.*



# From the College Captain

The 2024 College Captain is Cooper Partridge. Cooper started his secondary education at the College in Year 7, after completing his primary schooling at St Joseph's in Elsternwick. *Roll Call* spoke to him about his role as College Captain.

## ***How have you demonstrated leadership in the community?***

Community leadership in my life has come in the form of becoming a Cadet Sergeant in the Australian Army Cadets (AAC). The AAC has allowed me to learn how to work my way from the bottom as a recruit to rise above the ranks and become a Cadet Warrant Officer Class 2, currently in charge of the drill, dress and bearing of a whole unit, numbering 70 Cadets and Cadet officers.

Overseeing the teaching of cadets, giving advice, and guiding my junior officers in charge of them has allowed me to demonstrate my leadership and improve my cooperation and teamwork while working with others.

Giving back to my community through ANZAC day services and poppy appeal sales has been extremely rewarding and has given me greater respect for current as well as past serving members of the ADF.

## ***How have you demonstrated support for the cultural and sporting life of the College?***

I have represented De La Salle in football, volleyball, badminton, and lawn bowls. These experiences have enabled me to form stronger relationships and work in a team with my peers. I also have represented the College in ACC public speaking which developed my communication and presentation skills and taught me the importance of attention to detail.

## ***What previous positions of responsibility have you held during your time at the College?***

As a previous member of the student wellbeing committee, I have been fortunate to be able to represent my peers and make meaningful changes and decisions that contribute positively to the wellbeing of others. The role has



*Cooper Partridge, College Captain.*

enabled me to build relationships with like-minded people from all year levels of the College, giving me insights into the priorities of all age levels. This close bond further enables me to participate in and promote the desires of the whole school not just my year level as well as promote the De La culture.

## ***What does it mean to be a leader at De La Salle College?***

I believe leadership at De La Salle College is guided by our core principles, inclusivity, faith, quality education, respect, and social justice. So far, these principles have helped guide me through my education at the College. To serve De La Salle means to participate and wholeheartedly contribute to the culture and these core

principles, as well as serving everyone not just a select few. While doing this it means that the College is connected between the three campuses through our brotherhood, coming together to lead the college the best we can.

## ***What strengths will you bring to a leadership role at the College?***

The strengths and qualities I will bring to the role include teamwork, cooperation, and my demonstrated leadership abilities. Holding prior leadership positions in and outside of College has allowed me to develop skills such as delegation, emotional intelligence and decision making. These skills have allowed me to be effective in the leadership positions I have held.

The development of my public speaking has come through subjects I have done in previous years such as "Spit it out" in Year 10 as well as ACC public speaking competition.

The relationships I formed through the social justice committee and in daily school life have also allowed me to develop teamwork skills and cooperation with people from all age ranges and years.

## ***How could you be a role model for other students?***

Having the opportunity to be a role model for other students is an absolute privilege and I know with that comes great responsibility. I aim to be a role model for others by following in the footsteps of my own role models.

Following the Lasallian principles will enable me to support and respect the views of all students, whether they are in Year 5 or Year 12.

# Welcome Mass

On Thursday 7 March, the annual College Welcome and Opening Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral in the presence of Rev. Fr Michael Gallacher JCL who presided over the occasion.

The Mass is a significant and special occasion on the College calendar and its Lasallian identity, as it formally welcomes and acknowledges the newest members of the De La Salle College Community each year. All Year 5 and Year 7 students, as well as the new Year 6 students, were welcomed into the College community as they were officially called forward by name by College Principal, Peter Houlihan. The evening was also an opportunity to introduce the Year 12 College Leaders, the Tiverton, Holy Eucharist and Primary Captains and Vice Captains officially to the community.

*Rana Brogan, Assistant Principal – Identity and Mission*



## 2024 College Leaders

*Top: Sebastian Chettibi, Mack Higginbotham, Liam Murphy, Laurence Dell, Luka Peterson, Daniel O'Kane, Liam Campitelli, Skyler Sahely, Christian Persichelli*

*Middle: Joseph Valcanas, Isacc Romanis, Hugo Sheedy, Oliver Maher, Lachlan Grey, Alessandro Paroli, Hugh Florance, Jordan Genovese, Cameron Cochrane, Simone Celon*

*Bottom: Benjamin Rogan, Angus Gill, Cooper Partridge, James McLisky*

*Absent: Oliver Walsh-Dummett*



# Celebrating our VCE Success

On Friday 16 February the College held the 2024 Investiture and Academic Awards Ceremony at the Tiverton Campus. Principal, Peter Houlihan congratulated the Class of 2023 for their VCE results, acknowledging the College's continued improvement in VCE outcomes. Mr Houlihan paid tribute to the success of the Class of 2023.

"Over 40 per cent of ATARs were in the 80s and 90s with nearly 60 per cent of our cohort attaining an ATAR above 70. For an open-entry, mixed ability school that is a tremendous achievement," Mr Houlihan said.

"The median Study Scores for a range of studies were well above the state average. These excellent scores would be the envy of many exclusive independent schools."

"When applying for university places, 65 per cent of the VCE graduates received their first or second preference."

Mr Houlihan encouraged the whole College Assembly to aim high. "All of our students should take advantage of all the opportunities presented here at De La Salle and each of you can achieve great things – your own great things."

The De La Salle College DUX for 2023, Sullivan Mardling, also addressed the Assembly reflecting on his own success. Sullivan, who achieved an exceptional ATAR of 99.75, said there was no top-secret technique to achieving such success, simply hard work, and perseverance.



Sullivan Mardling.

“...no top-secret technique to achieving such success, simply hard work, and perseverance.”

"Your biggest asset at De La Salle College is the support shown by teachers and peers. Nurturing these relationships will not only make for a less stressful journey through VCE but will lead to connections that will extend beyond your years at the College," Sullivan said.



## 2023 VCE Achievers

**Back row R – L:** Jack Lanigan, Sam Tormey, Xavier Campbell, James Ganas, James Valcanas, Jim Tobin, Michael Gashi, Noah Caruso, Hamish Webb, Jack Ryan, Thomas D'Amelio, Jasper Newton, Elijah Brasher, Jack Larkin, Daniel Martin, Zane O'Keefe, Joshua Stewart.  
**Seated R – L:** Joseph Fisicaro, Liam Greening, Joshua Miles, Hugh McIntosh, Jordan Genovese, Peter Houlihan, Sullivan Mardling, James McLisky, Matteo Celon, Adrian Luu, Charlie Kopczowski, Darcy Mulholland.



# Murray River Challenge

In February this year, Year 9 students faced the challenging task of paddling 70km along the Murray River, sleeping outdoors and cooking their own food along the way. The four-day expedition, which is part of the WISE Program, challenged students to be independent, resourceful, and resilient.

The WISE Program is a unique opportunity at De La Salle College, tailored for Year 9 students. The program has four integral components – wellness, independence, service and the expedition – the latter promises an enriching, empowering and transformative experience for students.

At the dedicated Year 9 campus at Holy Eucharist, students undertake a broad curricular program where learning is underpinned by a unique range of co-curricular inhouse and external programs including WISE, The Man Cave, GROW, the Long Walk to the G, as well as a year-long robust social justice program.

The Head of Year 9 campus, David Alexander said programs like WISE are a game changer for Year 9 students.

“The effort, resilience and positivity shown by students throughout the four-day WISE Murray River Expedition was nothing short of remarkable. It showed students the importance of maintaining a growth mindset amidst adversity and no doubt it has brought the current Year 9 cohort closer.”

“Year 9 is the intersection between junior and senior education at De La Salle College,” he said. “At our Year 9 campus students are supported in a range of ways to set their own goals and rise to the challenges of their future years.”

“Building relationships with Year 9s is a critical ingredient for gaining traction with our young men.”

“A recent review found that students said the De La Salle College Year 9 program was an overwhelming success. One of the key strengths was being able to maintain regular contact with the same teacher and having ownership over their learning experiences.”

*By Kerry Martin*





# Cambodia Immersion:

## A journey of social justice and cultural enrichment

At the end of last year, 11 senior students spent two weeks in Cambodia as part of De La Salle College's 2023 Social Justice Immersion Program. The Program is a vital part of the College's Lasallian Social Justice focus and gives senior students an opportunity to be involved in helping and learning about their global neighbours. Students spent time at Sunrise Cambodia working with founder Geraldine Cox, restoring the library, fixing external pathways for better wheelchair access, and laying gravel in flood-prone areas. They also donated funds, raised through the College's Mission Action Day, to purchase a motorcycle for Sreyvin, a local Cambodian girl with mobility issues. The motorcycle will enable Sreyvin to attend university in Phnom Penh. Our students also met with young people impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS through the New Hope for Cambodian Children Program.





# Brayden Maynard – Leadership Material

At the end of the 2014 school year when Brayden Maynard's classmates were eagerly waiting for their VCE results, he was sitting in his living room with his family and best mate, Tom Nicolls (2014) watching the AFL (Australian Football League) Draft. Initially, he missed his name being called, but when a message popped up on his phone from Eddie McGuire saying, "Welcome to Collingwood, Brayden," he knew that life as he knew it was about to change forever.

Eleven years on, he is a Premiership player, has an All-Australian blazer hanging in his wardrobe, and has been tipped to be the next Collingwood Captain.

Maynard admits that while at De La Salle College, sport came first, but as an AFL draftee he quickly learnt that being a successful AFL player was more than just knowing how to kick a football, and his time with Collingwood has taught him discipline and self-belief.

Maynard recalls that life changing moment. "I was Pick 30 to Collingwood and they say it doesn't matter what number you go, just as long as you get the opportunity," he said.

"It was funny, I actually missed my name being called out as I was watching an interview with Paddy McCartin, the No 1 pick, then my phone started beeping like mad and I realised I'd been picked."

"There were lots of jumping around, and hugs in the lounge room with my family and my mate, Tom Nicolls. "It was an absolute dream – a night I will never forget."

"Getting drafted was a dream come true and getting drafted to the biggest club in the country, I was just so excited to get stuck in."

"To go straight from school into an environment where I was training and playing along some of the greats of the game was just so surreal."

"It took me a while to understand everything, and in the beginning, I had a lot to learn, but I had a lot of help from the players and staff whom I can't thank them enough."

"They have helped me understand what it takes to be a professional, which means that sometimes you need to say no, which was really hard for me coming straight from school."

He admits in that during his career he has had to make sacrifices, especially to his social life, which these days takes a back seat to his regime.

Known around the Club as its 'spiritual leader' who was once compared to the Dalai Lama, I am struck by Maynard's inner calm and focus. His time since graduating from De La Salle has certainly matured him, so much so that he is now a mentor for younger players. He said his own experience as a young recruit helps him to work alongside other new recruits.



Brayden Maynard with his premiership medal. Photo courtesy of the AFL.

“I still bleed the Blue and Gold and gave it my all whenever I had the De La Salle jumper on my back.”

"Now I am the one teaching the new recruits who come in as 18-year-olds. It is important that they become better players on the field as well as a better people off the field."

At only 27 years of age, Maynard has had a stellar football career. In 2022 he was selected to the All-Australian Team and last year was promoted to the Collingwood leadership team as a Vice Captain.

He says his biggest career highlight, however, was playing in a Premiership team. "The 2023 Grand Final was easily the best day of my life to date. It is what we play for and to be able to achieve this goal in AFL it is something I will cherish forever."





*Brayden Maynard and Principal Peter Houlihan at the 2023 1st XV111 Jumper Presentation Dinner.*

"It all came together on the day, the connections, relationships and culture we had built at the Club, especially in the last few years was something I had never been a part of before."

"I absolutely love what I do and to be able to win the premiership in 2023 is something I will never forget and forever be grateful for. A lot of hard work and determination behind the scenes gets put in to achieve it and we did it, but we aren't putting a ceiling on how far we can go. We have a mindset of getting better every day, so who knows what can happen. I have great belief in the Collingwood Football Club to keep being great at what we do and keep achieving the ultimate success."

Off the field Maynard is heavily involved in a mentoring program called, "What Ability," which supports young people with a disability. "The program provides participants with a range of physical activities including day trips to bushwalks and overnight camps. It is such an amazing program to be a part of."

"I still bleed the Blue and Gold and gave it my all whenever I had the De La Salle jumper on my back." True to his word, Maynard often returns to the College to take part on Presentation evenings and in 2019, he was an assistant coach for the College Senior Football team, alongside Peter Schwab.

When I told people I was interviewing Maynard, there was "one question that everybody wanted me to ask him. If he is tough as he looks, or does he have a soft side?"

"I get asked this question a lot and I have an extreme case of white line fever. It's quite bizarre how I switch into a completely different person when I cross the white line to play the game I love. But I wouldn't want it any other way, it's me and it's what makes me who I am and the way I play."

"I am a big softy on the other side of the white line when I'm not playing. I'm a big hugger and a huge family person who loves to give the time of day to anyone." And that he does.

*By Kerry Martin*

## A Different Draft

When Principal Peter Houlihan was in Year 11 at Monivae College he received an offer to train with the Collingwood Football Club. It was six years before the AFL introduced the Draft system and in stark contrast to Brayden Maynard's (2014) draft experience; Mr Houlihan's offer arrived at his remote farm near Casterton, via snail mail.

"It was very exciting for a 17-year-old from the bush," Mr Houlihan said. "However, while it was a life changing offer, I decided to remain at school and finish Year 12, but a year later I received another letter from the club inviting me to join the seniors for pre-season training. This time I was ready."

"That summer, before I moved to Melbourne, I spent many long, hot, and lonely hours training by myself on the hills and paddocks on the farm before moving to Melbourne for the January start. The club actually mailed me a program to complete week by week."

"Moving from the farm to the city was a massive change, mixing with the heroes I'd watched on TV in the 1981 Grand Final, catching public transport everywhere, and keeping up with incredibly demanding preseason training as one of Collingwood's new recruits. There was almost no support or guidance from the club, so I had to grow up very quickly and look after myself."

"It was a bit of a sink or swim experience."

"In those days all VFL players had jobs, so I worked full-time as an insurance clerk to support myself."

Previously, he started a teaching degree, but after six weeks decided the demands of study, classes, footy and adjusting to life were all too much, so he deferred.

While his star shone bright during the 1982 football season and early in 1983. "Inevitably I was eventually called into the coach's office to tell me my time as a Collingwood player was over - I was heartbroken!"

Needless to say, Mr Houlihan got over his Collingwood experience and returned to his teaching degree. This year, he marks 11 years as Principal of De La Salle College.



# Architectural Balance

As a student, Paolo Pennacchia loved physics, graphic design, and art, so a career in Architecture was a logical pathway. Graduating with a double degree in Architecture (Honours) and Property and Construction from The University of Melbourne, Pennacchia is now an Associate at Travis Walton Architecture with an award-winning portfolio to his name.

The firms' designs have been recognised at the 2023 Australian Interior Design Awards, the 2021-2022 IDEA Awards, the 2000 Belle Coco Republic Interior Design Awards and the 2017 FX International Interior Design Awards in London.

Focusing on high-end bespoke architectural home design, commercial, retail and hospitality projects and as an Associate, Pennacchia has oversight for the documentation and construction administration stages of a range of projects.

"My role as an Associate enables me to mix both time in the office, undertaking my own design work, overseeing junior staff, being involved in the management of the firm, and attending building sites and working closely with clients and builders to see projects come to fruition," he said.

Over the years he has worked on major award-winning projects, including a Green Star commercial refurbishment project at 40 Albert Rd South Melbourne: one of the first of its kind in Melbourne, and the RACV Country Club at Healesville. While on the residential side of the business, Pennacchia has created many beautiful houses, such as a breath-taking house at Pambula Beach (pictured), which he completed while with Baenziger Coles Architects.

Pennacchia admits that architecture poses many challenges in the current climate. "The greatest challenges centre around environmentally sustainable design, namely with moving to use



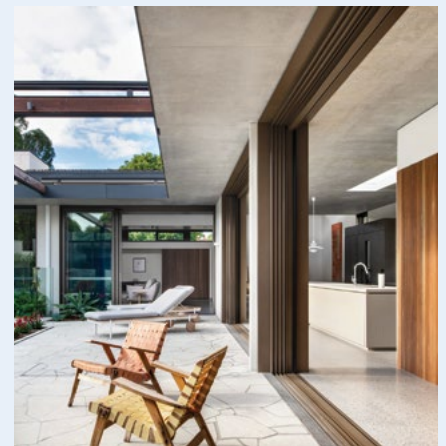
*Pambula house. Photo by Chris Erickson.*



*Paolo Pennacchia.*

of more environmentally sustainable materials, reducing waste, increasing modularisation and reusability of components, designing healthier indoor environments, reducing energy and carbon footprints, among other things," he said.

"Priorities, though, are related to trying to change user and client expectations, and to encourage the advancement of the regulations and the codes which will also drive these changes. On a larger scale, the challenges for townscapes and cities relate to many aspects including those of transport, residential



*Paolo Pennacchia design. Photo by Nicole England.*

density, connectivity, and access to open space, not to mention energy infrastructure."

When he is not working, Pennacchia enjoys spending time with his teenage children, listening to music, riding his bike, and going on dates with his wife.

He said that his time as a student at De La Salle College provided him with many friendships, happy memories, the ability to face challenges, and a good work ethic; something which has put him in good stead.

*By Kerry Martin*



# Shaping our Skyline

As a Commercial Construction Manager for the past 15 years, Alex Rodgers (2003) has left an indelible mark on our built environment with several of his buildings dominating our city skylines.

In Melbourne, his landmark buildings include, Tower 4 at Collins Square, Southbank One, Flagstaff Place, the Citadines Hotel and in Sydney the award-winning Omnia Building in Kings Cross is a worthy neighbour to the iconic Coca Cola sign.

"So far, my favourite building is the Omnia, a high-end apartment tower in Kings Cross, opposite the Coca Cola sign. The building won several architectural and building awards and is something that I am quite proud of," Rodgers said.

When it was completed in 2019, the Omnia won the Urban Taskforce Development Excellence Award for High Rise Apartments, the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers (ACSE) Award for Large Projects and the Master Builders Association - Excellence in Adaptive Re-use Construction Award.

He says he gets a sense of satisfaction seeing his work. "Each time I come back to Melbourne and drive over the Bolte Bridge I can see a couple of buildings I worked on which brings a smile to my face."

He has been working on some exciting education projects, including a large \$200 million school redevelopment on Sydney's North Shore and has recently broken ground on a 730-room student accommodation to cater for the growing demands near Macquarie University.

"It was a humbling experience handing the buildings over to the Principal and watching the students run in on the first day of the school year."

"I really enjoy the tangible element of my job. After a lot of demanding work and effort the legacy is knowing I can look back and see a real contribution."



*Alex Rodgers with his children.*

After completing a Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Construction Management at Deakin University, Rodgers joined Multiplex as a graduate, where he honed his skills.

That was 15 years ago and since then Rodgers worked for Probuild before moving to his current role at Richard Crookes Constructions. The first five years of his career were in Melbourne and 11 years ago he moved to Sydney.

Rodgers and his family live in Bondi. "My wife Amanda and I have had three wonderful children Gigi (9), Marlowe (7) and Louis is (4). The children were born in Sydney, and for the past six years we have lived in Bondi just metres from the beach. Bondi has this magical attraction that pulls you in and makes you feel something special. After all this time I still sometimes feel like I'm on holiday."

"Having a young family keeps me busy but I've been getting back into running and fitness recently having run the City2Surf and Sydney Marathon and love to get out on the surfboard early mornings when the conditions are right." As a student at the College, Rodgers was Senior Golf Captain and was part of the Athletics and Cross-Country teams.

"I'm pretty happy with my achievements to date, but I want to build bigger and better things and would one day love to work overseas."

"De La Salle instilled into me the importance of hard work and respect. I really enjoyed my time there and am grateful for the opportunities it provided."

"It also gave me a strong group of friends. I came down to Melbourne last year for my 20-year Reunion and even though it had been a long time since I had seen some of my cohort, it still felt remarkably familiar. The boys I keep in contact with have all grown into genuine human beings who are grounded, and De La Salle had a lot to do with that."

*By Kerry Martin*





# 50 years of Lasallian *Roll Call*

De La Salle College hosted a morning tea in March at the Tiverton Campus to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of *Lasallian Roll Call*, the College's alumni magazine. Special guests included the Brother Visitor Br Tim Peter, Br Quentin O'Halloran, Br Peter Smyth, Principal Peter Houlihan, Peter Riordan, Nick Quin (1963), Trish Woodman, Marian Jenkinson and former editors; Pat Danaher (1964), Ken Coughlan (1970), Adrian "Ox" Fisher (1971), John Nolan (1971), John Toohey (1974), Phil Green (1983), Br Quentin O'Halloran and current editor, Kerry Martin. Fifty years of anecdotes made the morning a very memorable and lively occasion.

Mr Houlihan said that *Roll Call* was, and remains, an essential means of communicating with Old Collegians. Prior to *Roll Call*, the College had several newsletters including *The Lyre*, published in 1937, *The Lasallian Star* from 1965 – 1970s and later *Newsprint*.

In 1974 a group of Old Collegians, including Greg Martin (1960), Patrick Danaher (1964), Adrian Fisher (1971), Ken Coughlan (1970) and John Nolan (1971) launched a new magazine and called it *Roll Call*. This version continued until 1996 when it was relaunched as a full colour 24-page magazine and has continued to evolve since then. You can read more about the history of *Roll Call* in From the Archives on page 25 of this issue. Below we have published the reflections of some former Editors who shared their memories of the last 50 years of *Roll Call* to mark this memorable occasion.



Former Editors and invited guests at *Roll Call* Morning tea.



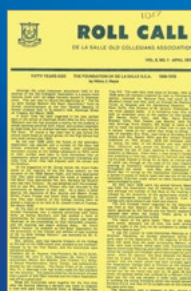
Founding Editors of *Roll Call* cut the cake.

## Greg Martin (1960) Founding Editor

The following is an excerpt from Greg Martin's Old Collegian's President's column in response to the first issue of *Roll Call*.  
*"Meeting with a most favourable response to our first Roll Call, we have decided to publish it twice a year. Our aim is to focus its content on news of pre set active members; happenings at De La and on coming social functions of the Association. Please use this publication as your means of communication to fellow Old Colls. and Brothers throughout Australia. Send anything you would like published to Pat Danaher, 5 Dawayne Street, East Burwood. Pat spearheaded a sub committee responsible for the birth of "Vol. I, No. 1" and on your behalf, I express sincere thanks for a wonderful job."*

## Pat Danaher (1964) Founding Editor

"I was on the Old Boys Committee in the 1970s and in those days, we had a simple newsletter that was published three to four times a year. We decided it needed improving. I had experience in reprographics, so I was aware that improvements could be made at relatively low cost. We had our first editorial meeting around my kitchen table. When we had enough material, we set about thinking of a name. *Roll Call* jumped out during a discussion about past students. At the last minute, as a space filler, we included the, "Did you know" section, which has been a remarkable success. Now entitled, "Where Are They Now," it continues to be a very popular section of *Roll Call*."

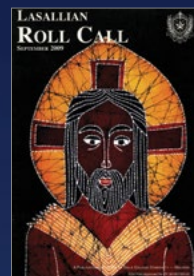
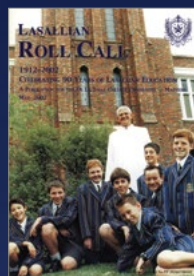
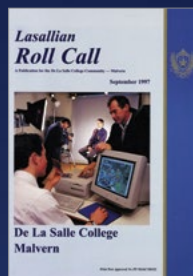
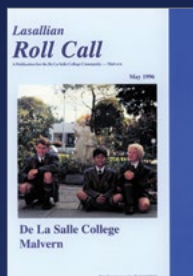
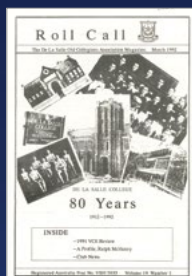


### John Nolan (1971) Founding Editor

"A group of us, including the President of the Old Collegians Association, Greg Martin (1960), who was my Year 12 Economics teacher at the time, Ken Coughlan (1970), Adrian Fisher (1971) Lew McKenna (1971), Bert Newton (dec) (1930) and Bernie Flynn (1972) would meet in the College Hall. *Roll Call* came into being around this time and it included news about past students and reports about the school and events such as Dinner Dances planned by the Old Colls' Committee. The four-page publication was printed at the College, and we addressed the mailouts during our meetings. Some meetings dragged on until all hours of the morning, and as a small breakaway group started the 8 to 3 Club (8pm to 3am), banning any curfews on finishing any earlier."

### Adrian "Ox" Fisher (1971) Founding Editor

"I was part of an editorial team recruited by our teacher Greg Martin (1960) who apart from regenerating the Old Collegians Association was the instigator and founder of *Roll Call* along with Bert Newton (1931). The other recruits included John Nolan (1971) and Ken Coughlan (1970). Bert was fantastic as he knew so many people. "We used an outside printer, who also printed Old Colls Football Club fixture each year. After our committee meetings we would address the envelopes by hand, no sticky labels back then, and there were several hundred envelopes to be addressed and stuffed into envelopes. *Roll Call* has come a long way since it's humble beginnings and I personally thank my teacher Greg Martin for his foresight and guidance in both regenerating the Old Colls' Association and launching *Roll Call*."



### Phil Green (1983) Editor 1986-1991

"Michael Bohan (1973) owned a large IBM electric typewriter that came in very handy. At the time *Roll Call* was often a two-person operation with Michael being the main assistant and John Jennings (1956) contributing at times. Br Damien was a frequent source of "Did You Know" updates, often hand-written on small scraps of paper. Hilary Hayes (1942), used to travel all the way from Yackandandah for editorial meetings, as did long-serving committee member and OCA (Old Collegians Association) legend, Bert Newton (dec) (1931). Some members wrote via snail mail with interesting items and Adrian "Ox" Fisher (1971) would provide Football Club news. I had to type the articles and as a terrible typist I was relieved that the IBM had an erase function. The typewriter had a couple of different "golf balls" that could be fitted to provide different fonts. High-tech for the time! We used to have a few sponsors who advertised in *Roll Call* and helped to offset production and postage costs. Justin Annesley's (1983) father owned a print business and would print the magazine for free. The pages were then stapled and collated on the Bohan family's living room floor." Editor's note: Michael Bohan (1973) was *Roll Call* editor from 1980 -1986.

### John Toohey (1974) Editor 1991-1992

"I wanted to make *Roll Call* more relevant by increasing the number of pages, changing the format, and bulking up the content. I introduced an interview style profile of an old boy/prominent De La Salle community member. I remember one edition had a comprehensive interview with Fr Les Troy. The newsletter style changed to a "magazine" format - black and white, with pictures; A3 sheets folded into A4 size, stapled in the centre, and then folded into thirds. Our editorial team was scant in number and included Michael Bohan (1973), Phil Mustey (1973) and me. I remember the challenge of thinking of content and sourcing news about past students. Sometimes we had to make it up."

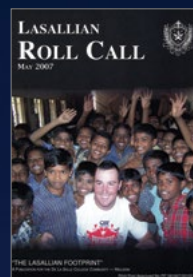
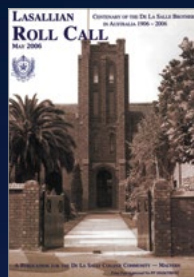
### Paul Zennaro (1992) Editor 1993-1995

"In those days, I would create a bromide, which was a typeset version that was then copied. I would produce it, then take the bromide to the printers. They would then deliver it to a mail house, that would send it out by post. Obviously, the quality of the publication has improved enormously over the years. Colour photos and electronic distribution make it so much more professional. But the greatest improvement, is that it now goes to all Old Collegians. Back in the 90s, it was only sent to financial members of the OCA. From memory, we used to print around 800 copies per edition. So clearly the distribution list has grown!"

### Patsy Blight Editor 1996-2000

"I had the privilege of being Editor of *Roll Call* from 1996 to the end of 2000 and was ably supported by an Editorial Team of Genie Scott and Jonathan Hewett. In my role as College Development Officer, Br Garry Coyte, Principal at the time, agreed that I should attend an Old Collegians meeting to put forward a proposal that the College was willing to take over responsibility for the production and distribution of *Roll Call*. That offer was eagerly accepted by the Old Colls' Committee. We felt that this magazine would not only be of great interest to the entire school community both past and present but would be an important marketing tool for our prospective students and families. Genie, John Marshall (former Business Manager) and I visited every primary school in the area proudly armed with copies of our new Prospectus and *Roll Call*. As we scoured the country and the world to contact former students, I was constantly impressed with their willingness to share their stories. I still enjoy reading, *Where are they Now*."



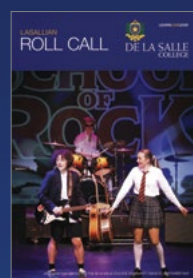
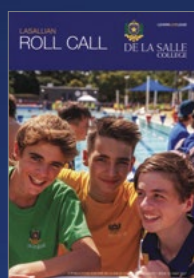
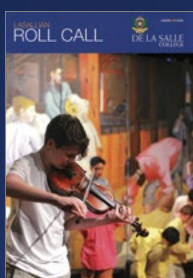


### Genie Scott Editor 2001-2005

In 1996 Principal Br Garry Coyte appointed me as the College Alumni Officer to bring a closer bond between the Old Collegians Association and the College. The role included setting up and managing an electronic database of former students, organising reunions, and contributing to the new-look *Roll Call*. The Development Officer, Mrs Patsy Blight was Editor, our school photography teacher Mr Jonathon Hewett was Photographer and Desk Top Publisher, and I liaised with contributors and staff members to produce the magazine. In 2001, I became the Editor with Jonathon's support until Kerry Martin, a member of the teaching staff, took over my role as editor in 2006 and continued working as a duo with Jonathon. As they say, the rest is history!

### Br Quentin O'Halloran Editor May 2006

"I worked on the anniversary edition which highlighted the Brothers coming to Australia in 1906. Jonathan Hewett did all the major work. His patience and preparedness to rectify my frequent changes and errors were quite remarkable. Truly, I was out of my depth, and he was kind enough not to say so. We still laugh about it!"



### Jonathan Hewett Editor May 2006, desk top publisher and photographer 1996 – 2022

"I had a charmed life working at De La Salle, not only could I teach Studio Arts and photography with creative students but had the tiller of *Blue and Gold* as well as the newly launched *Roll Call*. What began as a reprise of a hallowed circular, blossomed into a colourful, often joyful mirror of the College community. The first cover was shot on medium format colour transparency film, poured over by Patsy Blight for the most fitting image, drum scanned and returned as a file. This process took about 10 days. The Year 5 and 6 boys on the first cover are now hitting forty. The last cover was taken on a Nikon SLR, colour corrected and dropped into the cover window all within 45 minutes. Headly times all. More importantly, editors Patsy Blight, Genie Scott, Br Quentin, and Ms Martin were so caring of the final product, and so much fun. Much hilarity ensued even when we were chasing down a deadline, bleary eyed. I treasure all the times we gathered to produce a portrait of a College that has so much diversity, energy, creativity, and tradition."

### Kerry Martin Editor 2006 – current

"In 2005, I took up a teaching position at the College and when the then Principal, Br Bill Firman (1960) heard I was a former journalist he asked me if I would take on the role of editor of *Roll Call*. My first issue, September 2006, featured *A Day in The Life of De La Salle College*, which was received with widespread acclaim all round so I got the gig and continue in the role. For 15 of my 18 years as editor, I worked alongside Jonathan Hewett, whose many hats included Photography Teacher, College Photographer and Desk Top Publisher. Jonathan had been involved in *Roll Call* for more than 30 years and his collective wisdom was an immense help to me. He was the ideal wing man, and we made a talented team, producing 30 issues together. While the look and size of *Roll Call* has certainly changed considerably in 50 years, the stories of our Old Collegians remain constant. As I read through the reflections of previous editors, I was reminded of how technology changed, improving the process of publishing and distribution. From those early days of hand addressing envelopes and licking stamps to digital publishing making the magazine accessible around the world with the press of a send button. It is interesting to note that the early editors remarked how hard it was to source stories, I can honestly say that the opposite is true these days - the problem is having too much content. The Old Collegian stories just keep coming and it is a privilege to share them in each issue. Here's to the next 50 years!"



# Emergency Assist

Recently the world has been experiencing more natural disasters than ever before. Floods, fires, and severe storms are a frequent occurrence, putting pressure on the State's Emergency Services. As a technical specialist with Telstra's Rapid Emergency Management Service, (REMS) Phillip Karaminovski (2003) is responsible for coordinating the State's response to millions of calls during these emergencies.

The REMS group is a vast organisation including 19 customer networks comprising more than 52,000 users, who make more than 3.5 million calls a week from 700 managed radio network sites.

Karaminovski said the severe storms in February this year were particularly taxing for he and his team.

REMS also manages the National Emergency Alert Service Desk and life-threatening Call Trace Service, that aids



*The REMS' Emergency Room.*

search and rescue of missing POI (people of interest) resulting in saving lives.

"The biggest challenge is managing the emotional side of the job when working with the emergency services, some search and rescue efforts don't always end well," he said.

"When looking for a missing person or people and later finding out in the news that the person has passed away can be very emotional."

Karaminovski completed a Bachelor of Information Technology majoring in computer science and software development at Deakin University, before moving into his current position at Telstra.

Outside of work, sport plays a big part of his life. "Sport is important to me, if I'm not playing footy with my club, the Port Melbourne Colts, I'm at sporting events with mates or even just running around the park with my wife and kids enjoying they day. I love being outside." In July last year, Karaminovski celebrated his 400th game.

"De La Salle College taught me the importance of mateship and friendship and I am still close to many of my classmates."

"The College also taught me the importance of respect because everyone came from such diverse backgrounds, we learned to accept everyone. That value has stuck with me to this day. Loyalty, friendships and making the most of the life is paramount."

*By Kerry Martin*

# ACC Record still stands

Championship athlete Paul Brudenell (1964) was recognised at this year's ACC Athletics Championships held at Lakeside Stadium in February on the 60th anniversary of his long-standing ACC U14 100 metres record of 11.40 seconds, which remarkably, still stands.

The President of the ACC, Dr Michael Davies presented current De La Salle student, Tom Rhodes, who competed in the same event at this year's Athletics Championship, with an ACC pennant in Brudenell's honour.

Brudenell, who sadly passed away in 2006, was an all-round athlete who

excelled at De La Salle College not only in athletics, but also in football, cricket, and swimming. He was the ACC Age Champion in every year e competed in the Championships.

Paul's brother Michael (1967) who lives in Detroit, USA, said "I remember the day vividly as Paul smashed the record by more than half a second. It was one of his best efforts in an outstanding high school and junior national career before injury forced him out of the sport."

The Brudenell family have expressed their wish that the Pennant remain at the College.

*By Kerry Martin*



*Dr Michael Davies President of the ACC presents Tom Rhodes with the Paul Brudenell Pennant.*



*Paul Brudenell in 1965.*

# My De La Days

Year 8 was a challenging year as one of 50 students in the St. Leo's Scholarship class. The class was entrusted to the care of Br Abban, a somewhat unconventional, middle-aged Irishman, who needed a few tricks to manage 50 or more students. I recall an Arithmetic test that the whole class failed, obviously part of his motivational strategy. The cornerstone of his English curriculum was *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. It was an anxious year but happily I was one of the 20 or so who was awarded a Junior Government Scholarship.

The curriculum, as in most schools at the time was the “no frills” variety. There was no Art or practical subjects and apart from singing and an afternoon of sport we were mostly confined to our desks. Science did not involve visiting the laboratory and was mainly taught from the book up to Intermediate level (Year 10). The Brothers obviously believed that the ability to speak well was a valuable accomplishment. So once a week we had an elocution class with Miss Mercovich, who endeavoured to teach us to correctly enunciate various sounds and taught us some poems which the class would recite in unison.

The following year, Proficiency (Year 9 today) brought a new component to our school life, the Cadet Corps. It was expected that most students would join. The broad aim of this government-funded institution was to instill an interest in the army and its traditions, to impart some basic military training and discipline and to aid army recruiting. We were issued with army uniforms and every Monday after school a cadet parade was conducted in the schoolyard. We would have a session of drill and then disperse for more specialized activities such as weapons training.

The cadet unit was under the control of two of the Brothers as senior officers and organized into six platoons of around 30 students, plus a band. Each platoon was led by a student Under-officer, usually a Matriculation (Year 12) student. My first Under-officer was the late John Hanlon (“Hank”) (1955) (dec.) who was to become a prominent QC. In my second year of cadets, I was in Bruce Chamberlain’s (1956) (dec.) platoon. Later Bruce was a highly respected member of the Victorian Legislative Council for many years. Another of the Under-officers at that time was Bernard Teague (1953) who became a Justice of the Victorian Supreme Court and more recently was entrusted with the task of leading the Bushfire Royal Commission.

School cadets were each issued with a fully functional .303 rifle, which was to be maintained in good working order. We were instructed in the basics of caring for the rifle, used them in marching drill and fired them on the rifle range at the annual camps. The rifles were stored at school, but there were times when we were required or permitted to take them home.



CADET N.C.O.'s  
THIRD ROW: Cpl. Hughes, Sgt. Nance, Cpl. Heaney, Cpl. Browne, Cpl. Plumstead, Cpl. McCarthy.  
SECOND ROW: Cpl. Taylor, Cpl. Beasley, Sgt. Mottram, Sgt. Mack, Cpl. Madden, Cpl. K. Dwyer, Cpl. Quinn.  
FIRST ROW: S./Sgt. V. Dwyer, Sgt. Busch, C.S.M. Harrison, Sgt. Dillon, Sgt. Whinray.

Terry Harrison 1958 Cadet NCOs.

“...to instill an interest in the army and its traditions, to impart some basic military training and discipline and to aid army recruiting.”

People would be surprised and probably alarmed today at the practice of permitting 15-year-old students to travel on public transport with such weapons. As one who did so, I must confess that it did give one a feeling of some importance!

A highlight of the year was the annual camp held during one of the term breaks. For my first two years in cadets, the camp was held at Mildura. We would depart from Spencer Street station by special train at about eight o'clock in the evening and travel through the night, usually arriving sleepless, early next morning. I recall the train journey and the camp as a great means of cementing friendships with fellow students.

We learned how to dismantle, clean, and reassemble a Bren gun. We were also shown army tactical training films which were very British and probably obsolete. They gave the impression that military action was an everyday orderly activity with lots of neat green fields, convenient hedgerows, directional dots, and arrows and certainly no inkling that the air might be full of lethal missiles that could kill or maim at any instant.

The end of the camp brought another all-night train journey and a heightened appreciation of the comforts of home.

Terry Harrison (1958)



# De La Salle Football Club

Since the last issue of *Roll Call*, I will reflect briefly on the highlights of the 2023 season for me as President. Sam Williams' 300th game, an away win over Fitzroy, secured the Seniors first finals appearance since 2017. The Guns thrilling 1 point win at home vs Wattle Park in Round 7, and having Poppy Palma and Maddie Bamert nominated as Rising Stars for the VAFA. The Reserves Round 17 win against St Bedes in Stephen Hogan's final game, the Under 19 Blues great win against the soon to be premiers, Old Xav's in Round 16 and the Under 19 Golds' goal on the siren to beat Beaumaris away in the middle of year. And last but by not least, our Dino's, who won their first VAFA Masters flag – coming back from five goals down in the 3rd quarter to beat Marcellin by 16 points with Corey Wilson Best on Ground with his five second-half goals. And looking forward, the 2024 Season will no doubt have more great highlights in store.

This year's season got off to a flying start with 260 loyal supporters attending the annual club launch on 1 March at The Park, one of our loyal sponsors. A terrific way to kick off the year.

This season we will be fielding 7 teams; Senior Men, Senior Women, Reserve Men, two Under 19 teams, the Over 35 Men's team, and the Men's Thirds team, which will be coached by Daniel Buckley (1997).

By the time, this issue of *Roll Call* is out the 2024 Season will be underway and we wish all our teams the best of luck.

Our De La Salle community is particularly important to the Club, and it was great to see so many join us in 2023 at our events during the season and we hope to see more of you this year.

As always, community engagement is a focus of the Club, and our local community is vital to our success and

continuous improvement. This year we strengthen our alliance with De La Salle College, as we take over the running of the football program led by Nick Walsh and Dom Tyson.

Our partnership with Korowa continues to grow from strength to strength as we head into the second year of running their football program.

We have also recently joined forces with our new charity partner, the MAD foundation, which was started 20 years ago by several former De La Salle College players and students. We look forward to growing this partnership in the coming years.

In 2023 our volunteer network grew, and it was great to meet so many new parents, family members and friends of our players. A big thank you to our Under 19 parents who lead the way by getting involved, starting with our two Team Managers, Stuart McNidder and Stuart Khan, who ensured that at each game there was always plenty of helping hands. Another special mention goes to Jen Miller and Rae Russell for their support and help all season in the canteen, and for bringing new people down to the club to help.

There are hundreds of jobs that need to be completed each week at the footy club. If there is a job you may be interested in, please reach out to me, our General Manager or any committee member and we will make sure we find a job that suits you. The more the merrier.

Like so many I am extremely excited to see what season 2024 brings and encourage everyone to get involved and bring and many people along to support the Blue and Gold Army as we continue to build for greatness in 2024 and beyond.

To all our brilliant Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Medical Team, Trainers, Runners, Team Managers, Timekeepers, Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires and overall Club Volunteers, I thank you all for your tireless efforts in 2023 and look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

*Phil Proy (1998), President*





# Class of 2022

The Class of 2022 had an awesome night out at The Tricky Wicket, one year after graduating. It was great to see so many turn out, staff and students, and catch up on everyone's post-De La Salle escapades. There has certainly been a lot of change; plenty of facial hair growth and calling the teachers by their first names... to name a couple. Considering only a few years ago we were all in lockdown, it is good to see that our cohort remained close, and we were able to pick up where we left off. Thank you to the College for organising the event and thank you to the teachers for turning up.

*Sean MacNamara (2022)*





# Class of 1983

The Class of 1983 Reunion in October at the London Tavern, Richmond was a great night with 60 or so Old Colls' reconnecting. Given the '83 Reunions are held every ten years, it's not surprising that there's next to no need for polite re-acquainting, we got straight into it. Again, like the 2018 Reunion, it was great to welcome some who had not been to a reunion since school, and it was particularly pleasing to see them so easily re-acquaint. The standard of banter and discussion was so good that midnight and pub closing time came way too soon. Some had flown from interstate and Peter Tang flew in from Malaysia. The challenge over the next few years is to get as many of the 1983 cohort as we can to attend our next get-together. It's a pretty simple formula, good De La blokes, some good De La atmosphere over a few drinks and some food, chatting about old times, current times, and future times...! Fancy that being the recipe for a memorable evening. While 40 years is more than three times the amount of time we spent in school, and a lot has happened in all our lives since that time, there continues to be a bond that will last forever. Well done fellas' on making this another great night. Until next time.

*Anton McKernan (1983)*





# Class of 1974

A small group from the 1974 class gathered for lunch at The Glasshouse in Caulfield to mark our 50th anniversary. Many of us had started at De La Salle College in junior school. Principal Peter Houlihan gave an update and emphasised his enthusiasm to ensure that every boy finished his time at the College as a “good man” who can contribute in his own way to making the world a better place. A fitting display of school photos and the 1974 *Blue and Gold* magazine rekindled memories and chatter about shared experiences. Anecdotes flowed about teachers, classmates, class sizes, the school grounds, and activities including sport, excursions, cadets, the Peppercorn tree, the tuck shop, the strap and other long gone student discipline techniques.

*John Toohey (1974)*



## Upcoming Alumni Events

10 year reunion: Friday 17 May

30 year reunion: Friday 31 May

20 year reunion: Friday 21 June

50+ year reunion: Thursday 15 August

40 year reunion: Friday 11 October

65+ year reunion: Tuesday 12 November

1 year reunion: Friday 29 November

Keep up to date with all our news.

Update your details here:





# Morning Tea with the Principal

What a wonderful educational experience to attend De La Salle College in the early 1950's -culminating in my Matriculation in 1954. Equally it was a great personal experience to attend the Principal's Morning Tea on Thursday 14 November 2023. Initiated with the surprise invitation for the 65+ Old Collegians from the College Alumni Office, followed by excellent accommodation, service, food, and company. Stepping back through a long and meandering time-warp to the old days, ably aided and abetted by the College archives officer, Marian Jenkinson, totally brightened our fading memories and really made the day for all of us. I pass on my deep appreciation and thanks to the Principal, Peter Houlihan, and all the people who assisted with this occasion and eagerly look forward to the continuation of the future Principal's Morning Teas.

*Brian Crocker (1954)*



# De La Salle Reflection

*Rene Gehrig submitted this reflection in 2023, sadly Rene passed away in November last year, so his piece is published posthumously.*

"I commenced my schooling at De La Salle College in Grade 3, in 1938 during the Depression. In those days, the entire school was represented by the building today known as the Tower Building.

My parents, Josef and Frida emigrated to Australia from Switzerland in 1929 and I was born in Bendigo in 1930. In 1933 our family moved from Bendigo to Milton Pde, Malvern and after a couple of years in primary school I was able to start at De La Salle College.

I enjoyed my years at the College and made many lifelong friends during those school years.

I can remember one of my early teachers, Br Aban being particularly taken with my mother's immaculate handwriting. If ever I was ill, and mum wrote a note to the school, Br Aban would always comment; "I have to meet the lady with this magnificent handwriting!"

My mother died when I was just 14 years-old and with no siblings, dad decided that we should visit Switzerland once the war ended, and it was safe to do so.

As a result, early in 1946 during my 'Leaving' year at De La Salle, the airline advised dad that our seats for a flight to Europe had been allocated to us for a specific date in November. The booking system in those days was quite different to today!

While I had always been a reasonable student, I was nonetheless delighted that this timing meant I would have to miss sitting my end-of-year 'Leaving' exams!

An adventure akin to an Indiana Jones movie then commenced as we departed on board a Hythe flying boat from Rose Bay on Sydney Harbour at midnight, when there was the least boat traffic. The unpressurised plane landed in Bowen, Queensland the next morning and after breakfast we flew all day to land in Darwin that evening. From there, we took another week to hop our way north via Singapore, India, the Middle East, finally arriving in Europe. At any time on the flight, you could throw open a window and take photos from the plane! Hard to imagine today!

On returning from Switzerland a year later, and while studying knitting technology at night school, I worked with my father at Marquise Knitwear Pty Ltd, the business that dad had started when we moved to Melbourne. When dad passed away in 1959, I became Managing Director and over the next 30 years developed the business into a leading baby and childrenswear manufacturer in the Australian marketplace.



*Rene Gehrig at his 90th birthday.*

“I enjoyed my years at the College and made many lifelong friends during those school years.”

Over many years, I remained close friends with my De La Salle buddies and many of us met monthly as part of a regular card group. Regulars included Old Collegians, Tony O'Callaghan (Occa) (1951), (Moby) Dick Kellock (1947), Jack Dillon (1955), John Russo (1947), Danny Faulkner (1950), Peter King (1947) and many others.

At 93, I believe I am now the last surviving member of my school peer year (1947) and I still look back fondly on my school days and the friends I made all those years ago!

In more recent years, I was delighted that my twin grandsons Dominic and Luka Gehrig graduated from De La Salle in 2019, and they too have stayed close with many of their school friends.

*By René Gehrig (dec.) (1947)*



# From the Archives

The recent *Roll Call* 50th Anniversary celebration on 15 March was a chance to celebrate the contribution of all Old Collegians to our school and the wider community.

*Roll Call* has kept readers up to date on the careers, lives, and where-abouts of many past students, not just those featured for special mention.

The earliest editions recorded the results of social events such as Car Rallies – an extremely fashionable way to spend a day on the weekend in the 1970s; and the Annual Dinner/Dance functions which continue to this day.

1979 saw the format changed from the glossy four-page original design to a more simplified typeset presentation on distinctive yellow paper. In the 1979 April edition, Hilary Hayes, who contributed articles about the history of Lasallian traditions, the College, and the Old Collegian's Association (OCA) over many years, produced an essay on the foundation of the OCA, 50 years earlier in 1929. It is a fascinating insight into how, and why, an alumni association was created. He reports that the first dance in 1929 "attracted over 200 patrons, and resulted in a profit of £7, enabling a donation of £5 to be made to the school building fund". In 1979 people may have smiled at such a small amount of money. In 2024, it seems incredulous that

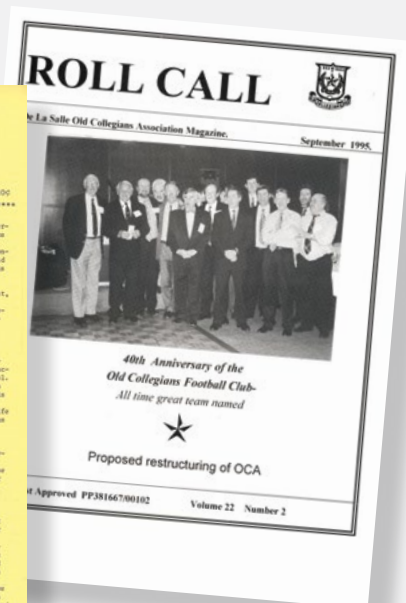
a small donation could have made such a difference, and yet the importance of this type of fund-raising event as a way for Old Collegians to support the college continues today. The size of the amounts, however, are somewhat different!

Social activities also included sports, and by 1979 alumni could be involved in not only football, but table tennis, soccer, and athletics.

1982 saw a "dramatic change in the presentation and format" of ensuing editions due to the necessity of cheaper production costs, and the desire of the committee at the time to publish four times a year to keep readers up to date. The cost to members then was 10 cents per edition, and the typewritten, yellow paper editions continued until 1992. 1992 was the 80th anniversary of the College's establishment, so a more modern presentation was required. One which again included photographs and up to 12 A4-sized pages of information but was still written by the secretary on a typewriter! A more professional look continued to be created and by 1996 gloss-papered, full-colour editions were produced.

The Archives Room will have the editions mentioned here, and many more, on display for you to peruse and reminisce. We will also be accepting donations of past copies (pre-1996) to the archival collection.

By Marian Jenkinson



# Where Are They Now?



**Corey Maynard (2009)** is the Head of Player Wellbeing and Development for the North Melbourne Football Club. Corey played College basketball in the US from 2010-2104 and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Management, from Bryant University. Since then, he has

played for the NBL, the Cairns Taipans and the Townsville Crocodiles. In 2016, he switched to AFL and played for the Melbourne Football Club for four years. He was pictured at the 2023 W Awards with his partner, AFLW player, Kate Hore.



**Will Agar (2013)** and his wife Madeleine welcomed Charles Ashton Agar into the world on 12 September. Wes and Charles are seen here with two enormously proud uncles **Ashton (2011)** and **Wes (2014)**.

**Peter Nikitas (2017)** was admitted to practice by the Victorian Supreme Court in September 2023. Peter graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Deakin University in 2021. He is currently rotating through the Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions and Capital Markets team. Peter is also studying for a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance major) at the University of Melbourne.



**Tom Ponissi (2016)** was awarded the Higgins Community Spirit Award at the 2024 Academic Awards ceremony held in February at the Tiverton Campus. The Award was presented to Tom in absentia by the Federal Member for Higgins, Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, as he is currently on an exchange at Boston College

in the US. Tom is completing the final semester of his Laws Global Studies (Human Rights) double degree at Monash University. While in Boston, Tom will undertake studies across a range of study areas. Tom has also joined a gospel choir as an extra credit.

**Alexander Martin (2017)** is working for the FMH Group as their Sustainability Administrator. Alexander completed a Bachelor of Environmental Studies at RMIT and is currently undertaking a Master of Sustainability at Monash University.



**Kieran Grant (2008)** (pic right) is a Senior Consulting Arborist with Cutting Edge, **Kieren Ellis (2008)** is a Senior Associate at Meridian Lawyers and is married to Vanessa, they have a son, Thomas. **Ben Nethersole (2008)** is a Director of Baringa Consultancy, **Damien Hale (2008)** (pic left) is a FX Consultant with Convera.



**Ben Nethersole (2008)** married Sarah Arnfield at the Abbotsford Convent on 13 October. Their daughter, Lily stole the show as their flower girl.

**Luke Lloyd (2023)** was drafted in the 2024 AFL draft to the Brisbane Lions Football Club. Last season, Luke broke De La Salle College's record kicking 14 goals against Mazenod.



**John Lucchinelli (1968)** has recently opened his latest hospitality venture in East Bentleigh. After owning and managing numerous iconic restaurants, including Intermezzo, Intermezzo by the Sea, Piazza Vercelli and Michelangelo's, John is happy to be back in Bentleigh

with Double Pour Café in Tucker Rd. John was a teacher before moving into hospitality. Interestingly, while a teacher at Tooronga Road Primary he supervised a young student teacher by the name of Charles (Chas) Thompson. Many Old Collegians will know Chas, who has been a teacher at the College since 1978. John's brothers, **Rod (dec.) (1966)**, **Paul (1969)** and **Mark (1972)** are all Old Collegians.



**Josh Wood (Williams) (2001)** and his wife Caitlin have welcomed the birth of their first child, Samantha, who was born on 16 October 2023.





**Alan Johnston (1954)** represented the College in ACC swimming. In 1954 he was the College Open Swim Champion. Recently we received a recent photo of Alan with his 1954 ACC Swim Trophy. Alan was a guest at the Principal's Morning Tea in November.



**Jack Hanley (2013)** ran 50km a day for 50 days straight between October and December last year. Jack was raising funds for the De La Salle Football Club's newly launched mental health and well-being program, Out of the Blue. The program aims to reduce the stigma of mental illness

and improve the overall well-being of players, supporters, and staff. The aim was to get as many people involved with the runs throughout the 50 days and help create awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. Jack and 300+ runners, including many Old Collegians, raised \$62,000 over 50 days. Congratulations Jack! Jack (left) with Ed Clinch (2008) and Lauren Evans.



**Tom McCausland (2014)** has joined Erebus Motorsport as a data engineer, in the Supercars Championship. Recently the team won the Drivers and Teams championship in Adelaide.



**Stephen Maglis (2019)** is pursuing his passion for sneaker design. In 2021, Stephen completed the Certificate IV in custom-made footwear at RMIT, the only course of its kind in Australia. He then worked with local shoe designer, Chase Shiel to develop his own designs.

Since then, his clients include Kevin Hart, Ed Sheeran, and Glenfiddich Whiskey. Each shoe is hand crafted individually, taking up to 30 hours per shoe. Stephen says he enjoys the creative process and is also interested in sneaker history, particularly the late 80's and 90's Nike basketball and running shoes.

**Brian Coughlan (1958)** retired in 2001 after an extensive career in the Postmaster General's Department, later Australia Post. After he left De La Salle College, he completed his education at night school after joining the PMG Department as a clerk in the central administration in 1959. When the PMG became two corporations namely Telstra and Australia Post in 1975, he was transferred to the Postal Corporation's National Headquarters where he worked for 27 years in various roles including 15 years in management. Brian is married to Maxine; they have two sons and four grandchildren.

## Vale Br Gerard Rummary fsc

The College community was saddened by the passing of Br Gerard Rummary fsc on 10 February this year. Br Gerard taught at De La Salle Malvern from 1951 to 1964 and is remembered fondly by staff and Old Collegians as a wonderful teacher



and mentor. Br Gerard's achievements in the College's Performing Arts, especially his role with the College Choir, is recognised every year at The Valedictory Dinner with the conferring of The Brother Gerard Rummary Performing Arts Award. Br Gerard was universally admired as a scholar known for his deep knowledge and admiration of John Baptist de La Salle. Br Gerard's long and fruitful life in ministry as a Brother and Lasallian researcher shined as an extraordinary teacher on the global Lasallian stage. He spoke several languages and translated many Lasallian texts from French to English. He was a great storyteller and his passion for making stories that speak to today's generation has left a lasting impact on the future of the Lasallian Mission. The Funeral Mass for Br Gerard Rummary FSC was celebrated in the Chapel of St John Baptist de La Salle at Oakhill College on Saturday 24 February 2024.

## Rest In Peace

John Horan	1945	Peter Curtis	1967
Rene Gehrig	1947	Richard Barry	1974
Ron Wetzlar	1948	David Virth	1974
John Kennedy	1948	Stephen Gilmore	1975
Kevin Leydon	1949	Michael Rodis	1983
Peter Feehan	1949	Andrej Saule	2012
Kevin Luscombe	1950	Hudson Campbell	2016
Kevin Fidock	1951	Marcus Watson	2021
Murray Godso	1952		
Peter Clothier	1953		
Harvey Bullen	1955		
Brian Scammell	1956		
David Prichard	1961		
Paul Madden	1964		
Chris Drew	1966		
Harvey Scott	1966		



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1318 High Street Malvern Victoria 3144 Australia | T +61 3 9508 2100 | E [dlsadmin@delasalle.vic.edu.au](mailto:dlsadmin@delasalle.vic.edu.au)

[delasalle.vic.edu.au](http://delasalle.vic.edu.au)