



ST ALBERT'S COLLEGE

Veritas

A newsletter for St Albert's College Alumni and Friends

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2007

Message from the Master

Welcome to the first edition of *Veritas* our new Alumni newsletter. While it may seem that the College had lost contact with its Alumni, we have been busy. In recent years we have spent a considerable amount of time checking all our files and records to build and consolidate our student data base, identifying our top students, identifying marriages between Albies students and starting biographies of many of our students. What has become apparent during this time is that this College has helped develop many successful men and women.

We have now moved on to the second phase of rebuilding our Alumni Association. Kathie Hunt has been appointed to the College staff to re-establish contact with our Alumni and co-ordinate the College's support of Alumni activities. We would therefore invite all of our Alumni to keep in touch with Kathie and use the newsletter as a means of keeping informed about the activities of many of your friends.

During the College's history we have had to change to meet the needs of a changing society and to overcome many challenges. The students coming into the college have changed over the years. For example, in 1969 the students used slide rules to do their calculations, hand held calculators were still some years off and a computer occupied an entire floor of a building and needed cards to load data. While the students of 2008 have known remote controls for their TVs all their life, and things like the moon walk and the Vietnam War are Ancient History.

One of the challenges in recent times included a period in the 1990s when UNE underwent major financial challenges and the College had reduced numbers to a point that it had to shut down floors and then an accommodation block. Fortunately, under the guidance of a number of people the College overcame these problems. As a result, in recent years St. Albert's College has established itself as one of the most popular and successful Colleges at UNE.

The College is now about to encounter changes and some new challenges in the coming years:

- St. Albert's student population is mirroring the wider university population and changing. Earlier this decade the proportion of female students overtook the proportion of male students. In 2007 the College had almost a 60% female population and in 2008 this will increase even further. This means the College is very different to the all male college of the early 1970s.
- UNE, like all regional universities, is encountering a drop in internal enrolments, so once again there are pressures to achieve a full College. Fortunately we are one of the few colleges at UNE that start the year full.
- UNE is investigating the idea of passing the responsibility of running the UNE Colleges to a private provider. Thus, St. Albert's will have to position itself to ensure it remains a viable independent college, as the UNE Residential System changes around it.

Throughout all the challenges that the College faces it is able to take pride in the young men and women who have spent time in the College as they completed their UNE studies.

Geoff Johnston

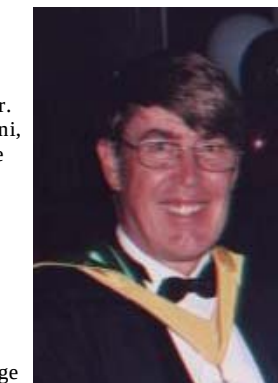
2009 — Albies 40 and Fabulous

Albies is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2009 and plans are well underway for a fun and memorable year for the Albies community.

We'd like as many Albies

Alumni as possible to join with us in celebrating this milestone and we need your help in re-establishing contact with our alumni.

Could you please pass this information onto your old



College friends and urge them to get back in contact with us.

Our contact details are:
albiesalumni@une.edu.au
or 02 6773 6002.

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THANK YOU

The Albies network is definitely alive and well with a strong response to my recent email. Thank you to everyone for your support and offers of assistance. If this is anything to go by, 2009 is shaping up to be a great year.

I'm still looking for help in tracking down Albies Alumni. If you'd like to be involved please contact us at albiesalumni@une.edu.au or phone 02 6773 6002.

*St Albert's
College wishes you and
your family a happy
and safe festive season*



Alumni News

It's been a while since we were last in contact with many of you and we'd love to catch up on all your news. So please, let us know what you've been doing since you left Albies.

In the next edition of *Veritas* a page will be dedicated to **your news**. We are particularly interested in what you've been doing since leaving college, including marriage, children, jobs and additional qualifications.

Alternatively, you can use this page to track down your old College friends, publish photos, publicise an event you may be organising or let us know about some of the 'activities' and events that used to occur in College and how they came about.

I'd also be grateful for any scanned photos from your days at Albies to add to our archive collection and publish in the newsletter.

We look forward to hearing your news. Please email us at: albiesalumni@une.edu.au.

Albies History

St Albert's College was founded in 1969 by the Dominican Fathers. At about the same time the Dominicans established similar residential colleges in Canberra and Melbourne.

The first Master of the all male College was Fr Fitzgerald. He was followed by Frs Hallinan, Waite and Saunders. In 1998, the first lay Master, Dr Paul Thornton, was appointed to Albies. Mr Sean Brito-Babapulle commenced as Master in 2000. The current College Master is Mr Geoff Johnston, who was appointed to Albies in 2004.

The College was extended in 1971 from the original two blocks to the current five. It can now provide accommodation for 300 students.

In 1976 Albies became co-residential and in the early nineties the floors moved to a mixed format. In the mid-nineties E Block was converted to a self

catered facility, giving us a variety of accommodation formats. No other college provides self-catered and fully catered quarters.

At the end of 2001, the Dominican Order handed over the management of the College to the Armidale Catholic Diocese. The Armidale Diocese is led by Bishop Luc Matthys.

The College operates under a Deed of Lease from the University and is an affiliated College. While we are integrated with the University and participate with the other colleges, we have always had the freedom to develop our own charter and style. Albies remains one of the most popular residential colleges at UNE and we continue to be fully occupied. We are proud of our achievements and the ongoing contribution we make to the University.



What's in a Name?



Following a great deal of discussion and pondering, we've decided on the name for the Alumni Newsletter—*Veritas*.

According to Roman mythology, Veritas was the Goddess of Truth, daughter of Saturn and mother of Virtue.

The name *Veritas* is in line with our College motto, *Veritatis Studium Prosequi* "To pursue the study of truth". It is also the Dominican motto which reflects our connection to our founders—the Dominican Order.

Replica of the Seal of St Albert

Albie

I am the St Albert's College Saint. I first appeared on students' t-shirts in the 1970's, which makes me around 37 years old. I went back to heaven for a number of years to earn my extra halos. Now I'm

back and more saintly than ever. Love the students both current and ex.



Bless them,
Albie

Albies Race Day

The Equine Flu may have brought Randwick Racecourse to its knees and kept the Armidale locals away from the track ... but not the die-hard Albies racing fans.

Over 300 current students, staff and

alumni members attended the annual Albies Race Day on 27 October.

Fashions in the Field, wheelie bin races, a gumboot throwing competition, live entertainment

and great food created a fun day with revellers dancing well into the night.

The horses may not have been racing but the Albie's spirit was definitely charging ahead.



Reunion Reports

Brisbane

As has been the case in past years, Tony Dennis (alias TD) organised the annual Brisbane Albies Reunion on November 30 at the Grand Central Hotel in Brisbane.

By all accounts I hear it was a huge success with a lot of reminiscing and catching up on the agenda.



Sydney

Michael Brent (alias Choco) did a wonderful job in rounding up the crew for the annual Albies Sydney Reunion on Friday, 7 December at the Paradise Hotel in The Rocks. This reunion has been held on the first Friday in December for over 10 years and is always a great afternoon (continuing well into the evening for some).

Up to 50 Albies alumni appeared throughout the course of the afternoon. Regulars included Ale, Joyce, Artha, Grinner, Brutus, Monster, Craney, Slim, Macca and of course Choco, with a number staying on until late.

The Sydney group is already in the swing of the 40th with some great suggestions forwarded for consideration.

Facts and Stats

More than 5,100 students have passed through Albies since it opened in 1969.

Over the years 120 College romances have blossomed into marriage. This is probably a rather scary thought for some of our current students!

111 past Albies members have completed a PhD or Doctorate, almost 200 have completed a Masters Degree and 11 have been awarded the University Medal.



78 Albies students graduated in April this year, two of whom were awarded the University Medal and four receiving 1st Class Honours.

Around the College



2007 has been a successful year for Albies, not only on the sporting field but also in our academic, cultural and community pursuits.

We continue to be one of the most popular Colleges at UNE. We were fully occupied in 2007 and applications are looking strong for 2008.



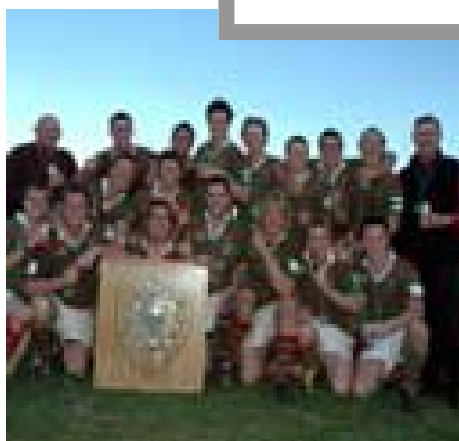
Sporting Dominance

This season Albies continued their sporting success on the rugby field and netball courts.

In rugby we made it into the grand finals in every grade for the third year running. As was the case in 2006, we won both the first and second grade Premierships. The First XV defeated Armidale 40—19, making them the First Grade Premiership winners for three years running. The Colts fought hard but were defeated 14-3 by Scone. In 2005, for the first time ever, Albies was successful in winning the Premierships in all three grades.

Albies had four Netball teams through to the grand finals, and were successful in winning the B grade match. The A Grade and A Reserve 1 grand finals were hard fought matches but unfortunately Albies were runners up in both games.

*Albies 1st Grade Rugby
Premiership winners for third
year running*



Academic Pursuits

Our records show that many of our Albies Alumni have gone on to illustrious careers. Our current students can also hold their head high with another year of strong results.

We may know how to “party” at Albies but our academic results show we also know how to apply ourselves to our study when it counts.

During First Semester, 60% of all subject grades were a credit or better, which included 78 High Distinctions and 247 Distinctions.

Our students’ grade average was just as impressive:

8 obtained a HD average
59 with a Distinction average
99 with a Credit average.

To the students’ credit, Semester 2

figures are comparable to Semester 1, with over 60% of students receiving a Credit or above grade average.

The top students in each year group for first semester 2007 were:

4th Year	Fiona Congdon (B Ed)
3rd Year	Gillian Burke (B Rural Sc) 4 x High Distinctions
2nd Year	James Bartley (B Bus/LLB) Jessica Bower (B Ed) Rod Dunlop (B Ag) Casey Hazelwood (B Nurs) Conner van den Berg (B Nurs) Susanna Walker (BA/LLB)
1st Year	Skye Cochrane (B Ed) Carla McBride (B Int St) Karina McCullough (B LISC) Ella Williams (B Fin Admin)



We still know how to “party” at Albies but our academic results show we also know how to study.

Congratulations to our students for achieving such great results.

Scholarships

This year, Albies Freshers were awarded 12 of the 30 UNE Country Scholarships. This represents 40% of UNE’s Scholarship funding.

These scholarships are worth \$5,000 per year for the length of each student’s degree.

40% of UNE’s Scholarship funding was awarded to Albies Freshers in 2007

In total, 18 Albies students received UNE scholarships.

In addition to the UNE scholarships, Albies offers almost \$20,000 in scholarships, prizes and bursaries each year, including the Knight Family Prize for a first year student.



Hallinan Scholarship



For the second year running, Gillian Burke is the 2007 recipient of the Hallinan Scholarship.

This Scholarship was established in 1990 by alumni and friends of St Albert’s College (aptly led by Peter Cunich) to commemorate the work of Father Hallinan OP B A B Sc M Ed MACE, second Master of the College (1979—1986).

The Scholarship is awarded entirely on the basis of academic merit and

recognises students who have excelled in the pursuit of truth, encouraging them to further their studies.

Father Hallinan (pictured left) returned to College as Acting Master during Semester 1, 2000. He last visited the College in 2006 where he addressed the College at our Founders Dinner.

Father Hallinan is currently working in Rome.

Cultural Pursuits

Abies students enjoyed their time in the spotlight with a very credible third place overall in the 2007 inter-college SFK competition.



The small ensemble group and art & craft students won their respective sections, with Abies residents turning up in force to support their college mates.

Students also participated in debating, public speaking, performance, theatre sports, poetry and short story writing.

Congratulations to Sally Leedham and her SFK team for all their work.

Community Spirit

Abies prides itself on its community spirit, and this year was no exception, with students proudly doing their bit for charity.

'Abies Week' saw students involved in a week of partying for a good cause, with numerous fundraisers including car washing, Chopper Stropper, a charity golf day and BBQs, all held over the course of the week.

Two brave Abies residents, Samantha Clifton and Jodie Watters, got into the spirit of the fundraising events and offered their heads of hair for donations to the Cancer Council. Both had their heads shaved before a supportive audience at the culmination of 'Abies Week'—St Albert's College Ball on 12 August.

In total, the girls raised over \$10,000 for the Cancer Council, with \$4,000 raised from the other fundraisers to go towards Beyond Blue—an organisation geared at raising awareness of depression, a charity St Albert's College has chosen to support during 2007, keeping in mind the effects of the drought on farming communities.

Abies Community...



Sam Clifton (pictured), along with fellow Collegian, Jodie Watters, raised over \$10,000 for the Cancer Council by having their heads shaved at the St Albert's College Ball during 'Abies Week'.



College Staff and Administration



Master
Mr Geoff Johnston



Dear of Students
Mrs Pip Kneen



Bursar
Ms Mary Quinn



College Secretary
Mrs Kay Hammond



College Assistant
Mrs Anna Thompson

2008



Alumni Officer
Mrs Kathie Hunt



Maintenance Mgr
Mr Colin McDonald



Chef/Kitchen Mgr
Mr Peter Hopwood



Household Mgr
Mrs Cheryl Williams

Keep in Touch

Past Staff Members

Father Hallinan is currently working in Rome.

Father Kevin Saunders is back in Australia after six months sabbatical overseas.

ANU, Canberra is keen to employ ex Albies staff with three of our past staff members now working there:

Father Laurie Foote is currently the Chaplain at John XXIII College

Sean Brito-Babapulle will be commencing as Master of John XXIII College in early 2008. Most recently he's been the Dean at Trinity College, University of Western Australia

Tania Willis is the Dean of Residences at Burton and Garran Hall.

Dr Paul Thornton is the Assistant Director of Education Services at the Lismore Catholic Education Office.

Kate Pigram has left Albies and is currently working part-time in Armidale, and being kept very busy with her young family.

Steve Skinner is working as a Botanist at the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

Ilona Eberle has recently retired to Toowoomba, after many years working in the library at the University of Southern Queensland.

Trisha Johnston is working part-time as well as caring for her parents in Tamworth.

Ruby Perryman, previously the Household Supervisor at Albies, has retired to Yamba on the NSW North Coast.

David Killen was employed at Albies between 1969 and 1990. He commenced duties at Albies in 1969 as House Manager, later becoming Maintenance Manager. Sadly, David passed away in 2006.

Alumni Profiles

We thought it was only fitting that the first edition of *Veritas* contained profiles on two original Albies students from 1969—David Mackay and Andrew Browne. David is one of only two students who have been made an Honorary Fellow of the College. Thank you to David and Andrew for such entertaining recollections of their time at Albies.

David Mackay (alias “Digger”)



Years at College

1969—1973. Inaugural member of College in my second year at UNE. Enrolled in a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (Hons) and later a Masters in Economics. Tutor 1972 and 1973.

Rooms at College

B24, B52 and D middle level Tutor's flat (1972-73)

Who were your College neighbours?

40 years is a long time to remember—however I do remember looking over Father Fitzgerald's room in A Block and Peter Edwards wasn't far away.

What is the best lesson you learnt at College?

Tolerance—with the many neighbours around you.

What did you learn at College that has served you well through life?

To be able to work with a variety of different people in all sorts of situations.

What is the best advice you received at College?

Be true to yourself.

Why did you Choose Albies?

It was a new college with hot and cold water in the large rooms (and carpet). I was originally in Drummond College (Zeta block of Wright College in 1968), which we were told was to be turned into an all women's college in 1969, therefore we had to move elsewhere.

What is your fondest memory of College?

Every year had its fond memories. From day one, the college was in development with new students who had never been together before joining Albies—we set the initial history of the College which was exciting. Father Fitzgerald was an outstanding first Master of the College, together with College Secretary, Ilona Eberle. The person who assisted the Master and Secretary in developing the College to the best college at UNE was David Killen. David was born in Northern Ireland (Belfast) and had an amazing sense of humour—he was full of stories and jokes to tell every time you met him. David became my Best Man and a life-long friend. Sadly, David died last year. I believe that Father Fitz, Ilona and David were instrumental in the successful development of the College during its first 12 years or so.

What is your funniest memory of College?

Not sure if it is the funniest, but I do remember my room being used by some neighbours to poke the fire hose through, right into Fr Fitz's bedroom window—he wasn't impressed!

Are you still in contact with your old College friends?

Most of the College was made up of people from the North Coast of NSW, NSW and Southern Queensland, with few resident Victorians. So I haven't really seen any of my College mates since leaving Albies, other than catching up with some of them during reunions.

What was your most memorable meal at College?

I would have to say that generally the meals at Albies were quite good. I remember only not being able to eat one meal in my five years at Albies—it was a half-cooked meal of large prawns. They were so bad, almost everyone in the college upturned their plate in protest to the chef.

What was your favourite social activity at College?

I enjoyed the many formal balls during the winter term as they were a chance to dress up—the girls did too!

What extra curricular activities were you involved in at College?

I played tennis and hockey for the College. Albies also won the inaugural Ilona Eberle hockey trophy (for the second grade hockey team). At times I also played the organ in St Peter's Cathedral.

During my last 15 months at Albies I spent some time as an honorary ambulance officer with the local branch of the NSW Ambulance Service. For a young 23 year old, this was an extremely eye-opening experience and included four nights working with the Sydney ambulance service in Kings Cross which blew me away.

Life Since Albies

- Married to Maureen—an Irish girl from Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Three children—Jamie (28), Rosemary (26) and Fiona (21)
- 1974—moved from UNE to Warrnambool, Victoria, where I took up a position as a lecturer in Economics at Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education (WAIE). I also completed my Private Pilot's Licence that I had started in Armidale.
- 1979-80—Maureen, Jamie (4 weeks old) and I moved to Bristol, UK, to work on a UK Energy project called "Energy to 2025" at Bristol University.
- 1980—gained my Commercial Pilot's Licence and spent 10 years flying staff from WIAE around the country side to visit off campus students.
- 1983-85—completed a Graduate Diploma in Computing at Deakin University.
- 1995—Completed a PhD in Information Systems at Deakin University, while working at an international research centre in Melbourne (Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technology).
- 1990—Joined Deakin University in Geelong, later becoming an Associate Professor in Information Systems, Faculty of Business and Law.
- 1998—Became a Director, Geelong Chamber of Commerce, and in its 150th year (2004-05), became the Chamber's President for two years.
- 2003—Purchased a fine wool property with a colleague (20 minutes south of Ballarat and 40 minutes from Geelong). The house runs as a Rural Retreat (www.merratonpark.com.au). We run about 7,000 sheep and crop approximately 140 Ha per year. The drought nearly crippled us last year, but this year crops are good and prices even better!
- June 2007—I retired early from Deakin University to work on our farm, and very part-time at RMIT in Melbourne.

Have you been back to Albies since leaving College?

I have been back to Albies a number of times for conferences and reunions, including to fly Fr Fitz, Ilona Elberle and Fr Peter Durning to Taillem Bend to meet some Albies students who had just broken the Guinness Book of Records longest canoe trip (from Gunnedah to Lake Alexandrina in South Australia). With two pilots, the other being Peter Durning who had flown during the second WW, we didn't even get lost.

My last visit to Albies was in 2002 when I returned for my 30 year reunion of Ag Economics graduating class of 1972.



Frenchie, Gerry, Wheelbarrow, Jack & Drum, Tony van Dorst & Basil

The farewell party for the record breaking canoe trip from Gunnedah to Lake Alexandrina in South Australia, Saturday 29 November 1975.



Captain Perry

Andrew Browne (alias “Maddog”)

Years at College

1969-71 (I spent 1967 and 1968 being a gentleman at Robb College). Tutor in 1971.

Rooms at College

B44 in 1969—second floor, facing the kitchen, above the entrance to the chapel.

Who were your College neighbours?

Can't remember back that far, but they were all good guys (sorry girls – it wasn't officially co-ed back then).

What is the best lesson you learnt at College?

Stick by your friends.



What did you learn at College that has served you well through life?

Your friends are your friends, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, and how ugly they are. Especially how old they are.

What is the best advice you received at College?

Peter Curran (excellent man that he is) promoted the value of good preparation getting good results. As a “tutor”, I gave varying advice, generally concerned with “Better pass those exams, mate! We need you in the team next year.” or “Hope that injury will be OK by Saturday!”.

Why did you Choose Albies?

A couple of Catholic mates from Robb wanted to move in when Albies was built, and they needed a token Protestant. That was the main problem back then – not being able to tell the difference between a Protestant and an atheist. Fairly certain that's why I was allocated the room facing the chapel.

What is your fondest memory of College?

The friendships! We were in different years, ages, disciplines, religions, faculties, sports, and even fronting in different ladies' colleges, but some things haven't changed in 40 years. The 1971 rugby grand final day was a classic, with 3 teams playing, Trevor and Janice grinning, and the entire College and friends roaring us on!

What is your funniest memory of College?

A toss-up: watching the Dean rush around tearing down posters of Casper; watching the Yeoman Bedell try to catch us for speeding down the hill; watching Father Fitz shaking his head in disbelief at antics in the dining hall; watching the freshers try to drink enormous quantities of beer; watching the dog race abandoned during a rugby game at the Showground due to “exuberant behaviour” on the part of our faithful supporters.

Are you still in contact with your old College friends?

About half a dozen of us from the earliest 70s get together a few times a year. I recommend it, because in our reminiscences, we all get faster, younger, smarter, better able to drink enormous quantities of beer, fantastic rugby players and coaches, and more handsome. Beyond that, there's a pretty strong Brisbane chapter of Albies.

What was your favourite meal at College?

A burger from the Golden Fleece all-night service station at Uralla (not there any more).

What was your most interesting meal at College?

Sharing a table with (later Sir) Albert Maori Kiki, prominent PNG author and politician. I forget the food, but the conversation about problems faced by indigenous peoples was a revelation.

What was your favourite social activity at College?

While I'd like to say it was “studying”, in fact it was any excuse for a party or celebration.

What extra curricular activities were you involved in at College?

Being a member of the cover band, the Zapples (Adam's Apple Corps), with Cams, Pete and Dan was undoubtedly the highlight, even better than rugby (sorry, Trev). Having almost the entire College cheering us on during the Battle of the Sounds may have influenced the judges somewhat! It seemed that wherever the Zapples (or a successor band, Kubla Xanadu) played all over northern NSW, there were faithful Albies troops helping us out, and generally being enthusiastically noisy.

Life Since Albies

I graduated at the end of 1971 with an Honours degree in geology, just in time to catch the end of the nickel boom, ie no jobs. Perseverance paid off, and I went to the Ranger uranium project at the start of 1973. I still consult to Ranger.

I have been lucky enough to have been in continuous employment in a job I still love, working all over the world. Not being prescient, I didn't see that at the end of 1971, but was firmly in the driver's seat of the "hope" bus.

In 1981, I married Jude, which means I'm now related to her cousin, prominent UNE graduate "Bomber" John Hudson (I didn't see that coming either!).

We moved from Sydney to Brisbane in 1982, had two kids (Katie in 1983 and Lloyd in 1985), and were transferred to Denver (USA) in 1992. After 3 years roaming the Rockies, we moved to Melbourne in 1995, but finally escaped and moved back to Brisbane in 1999. We're still here, and not moving again (I'm not wearing suits again either).

Being a consultant geologist means I get to see the lesser developed parts of the world – Mongolia, Madagascar, Botswana, Sweden, Spain, South Australia (just kidding – Botswana is quite well developed).

Have you been back to Albies since leaving College?

Made it back to the 30-year reunion; looking forward to the 40th and 50th. Rob bought my original rugby jersey, for an obscene amount of money, in the name of charity (great guy, get better, mate!).

Albies Note:

We've also done some delving into our archives and Andrew is being rather modest regarding his achievements at both Rangers and the role he played in the formation of the Albies Rugby Club—but more of that in later editions (well the Rugby Club anyway).



Steve Moore's 21st with the boys having a celebration on the stairs going up to the common rooms. I'm in front (with black framed glasses, with Steve on my right).

Maddog's Monkeys 1971



St. Albert's College

University of New England

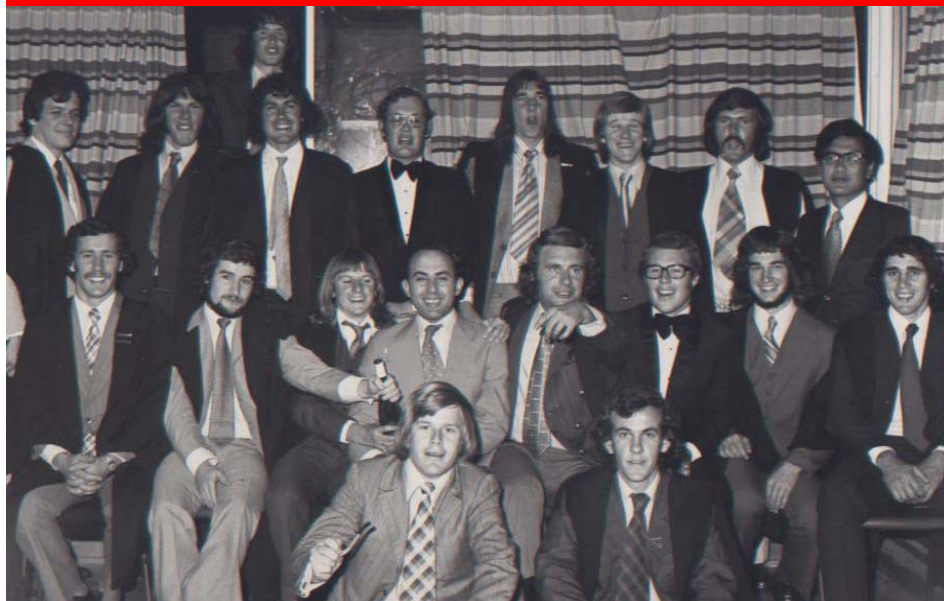


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Blast from the Past—1974



TOP FLOOR A BLOCK—1974

Far Back: Peter Thomas

Back Row: Robert Nestdale, Eric Causley, Tony Van Dorst, Lloyd Davies, Tony Reeves, Paul McKie, Phil Marshall, Kim Chung Yup

Middle Row: Alan Beasley, Kim Laws, John Winmill, Robert Hannah, John Keene, Monty Lee, Phil Williams, Dave Goodwin

Front Row: Peter Jacob, Chris Falk



Phil May, David Craddock, 'Ellen Terry', Eberle, Jordy, Steve Skinner and Bill Atkinson



Tim O'Shea, Tony Mooney & Monty

This is your newsletter. Let us know what you'd like to see included in the next edition.