



Veritas

A newsletter for St Albert's College Alumni and Friends

VERITAS

APRIL 2008

Message from the Master

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Veritas. At the time of writing the College has farewelled its internal students for a holiday and we are busy looking after external students. This holiday period the College is also home to two intensive (residential schools) in music education.

Despite UNE having fewer internal students than in the early 2000s, St Albert's College remains one of the most popular colleges at UNE and is full – unlike some periods in our history. This allows us to continue providing an experience unmatched by any other college. We have a college where students are able to:

- Live in a friendly family atmosphere, where there are strong pastoral care and academic support networks.
- Successfully study their courses in a college where the average result is a credit average and we have approximately ten students each year completing honours degrees
- Have access to a Christian and Catholic support network.
- Socialise and meet new people and make life long friends.
- Participate in either competitive or social sport – including being part of the top rugby and netball clubs in New England.



UNE like most regional universities is starting to suffer a drop in internal student numbers (while external student numbers are increasing). This is happening because there is now greater competition for students than previously. This has come about because:

- The number of 18 to 24 year olds (the typical undergraduate age group) in Australia is decreasing.
- There are now more players in the tertiary market, with new universities opening and private providers now able to offer tertiary courses.

Sadly many students are attracted to city universities and away from country areas, even though regional universities have many advantages. For UNE, these include:

- The best residential system in Australia, that provides a unique total student experience.
- Smaller classes and more contact with lecturers and other staff.

At the same time UNE is expanding its course offering to now include courses such as Medicine and Criminology.

UNE has also changed its teaching procedures to take advantage of technology. All students are now required to have access to a computer and:

- Use the internet to access "Blackboard", an online system that allows them to access

(cont. pg 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Editor	2
Albies History	2
Alumni News	3
Your Stories	4
Charity Bike Ride	4
Rugby History	6
Around the College	8
Academic Pursuits	9
Sporting News	11
Keeping in Touch	12
Blocks in 1979	13
Alumni Profiles	14
Blast from the Past	18



40th
Anniversary
Reunion 2009
20-22 March
 (see Pg 3 for details)



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Would you like an Albies information pack for your students?

Please contact me on

02 6773 6002

or email: albiesalumni@une.edu.au

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who contacted me after the first edition of *Veritas*. I appreciate your support and feedback. Thanks also to those of you who have provided photos and stories for this edition, and to the others who picked up on some discrepancies in the December edition—you're definitely keeping me on my toes.

It was brought to my attention that the photograph labelled "Maddog's Monkeys in 1971" is in fact the 1969 Premiership team which was undefeated in the Third Grade Competition of the New England Rugby Union (more about this in our College History section). I've also been brought to task on my comment about 2005 being the first time that St Albert's won all three grades in Rugby. It would have been more accurate to write that in 2005, it was the first time that Albies won all grades played—1st Grade, 2nd Grade and Colts. Chris (Spud) O'Leary, St Albert's College Rugby President in 1988 pointed out that in 1988 Albies was victorious in three grades—1st Grade (beating Armidale Old Boys), 2nd Grade (beating Guyra) and 3rd Grade (beating Robb), however the Colts were beaten in the Final. Apparently in the mid 1990s the rugby competition was reduced from four to three grades.

The more I delve into St Albert's history the more I appreciate the value of College life. I've always been a strong advocate of UNE's residential system but this position has provided me with a unique insight into the positive impact College has on students, not only while at university but also the lessons and friendships they carry through life. There's no better example of this than Nat & Shep's 'Dash Across the Nullarbor' (pages 4 & 5) This article typifies what it means to be part of the Albies family. Well done boys—we're extremely proud of you.

UNE students are fortunate to be attending a university with a traditional College residential system. This system however is under scrutiny. UNE is currently looking into alternative residential systems with one option being to privatise the Colleges. Strong student and community opposition has halted proceedings for now but I believe we need to retain our residential system in its current form and continue to provide our students with a strong support network and a full university experience which differentiates us from most other Universities.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of *Veritas*. Remember, this is your newsletter. Use it to keep us informed of your life since College, catch up with old friends or publicise an event you may be organising. We look forward to hearing your news and any suggestions you may have to improve the newsletter.

Happy reading
Kath

Albies History

Thank you to Andrew Browne for sending through these photos documenting construction at Albies during 1970. Andrew wasn't 100% on the dates so if you any other information relating to these photos, please send it through to albiesalumni@une.edu.au.



C Block 25 March 1970



C Block 10 April 1970



C & D Blocks



Paul Davies—Albies

From The Master Cont.

journals and articles in the library, reference articles, see lecturers' notes and powerpoint presentations. It also gives them access to a tutorial and chat room, where students and lecturers can discuss topics being covered in lectures.

- Use e-submission to hand in assignments - so paper (hard) copies are not submitted anymore.
- Use "Turn it In", a program that scans their assignments and identifies the extent and areas of similarity between the student's assignment and other students' assignments at UNE (and other universities), the internet as well as electronic databases.

As you can gather from *Veritas*, Kathie is also trying to collate and update its history records. Sadly there are gaps in our history, so if anyone spots an error in *Veritas* or has information, photos or stories we need to hear from you. Similarly we are interested in hearing about students who have upgraded their qualifications, since leaving UNE.

History of St. Albert's College

Alumni News

Congratulations to Fr Kevin Saunders

Congratulations to Fr Kevin Saunders on recently being elected the Provincial of the Dominicans in Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea for a four year term.

Fr Kevin, as he was affectionately known at Albies, has now moved from Adelaide to take up his new position at St Dominic's Priory, East Camberwell, Victoria.

Fr Kevin has a long association with St Albert's College. He was a tutor at Albies in 1973, later returning in

1990 to take up the position of Master of College until 1997.

While at Albies, Fr Kevin was a well liked and respected member of the College and his tractor endeavours have become part of Albies folklore!

As Dominican Provincial, Fr Kevin will be busy

travelling and he's hopeful he'll get the chance to drop in at Albies and catch up with some of his past staff members still working in College, including Mary Quinn, Kay Hammond and Col McDonald.

The St Albert's community wishes Fr Kevin all the best in his new role and we look forward to welcoming him back to College in the near future.



40th Anniversary Reunion Weekend 20—22 March 2009

Albies is turning 40 next year and you're all invited to join the party. This is your chance to catch up with old friends and revisit your College days.



Plans are underway for what is shaping up to be a fun and nostalgic weekend. Thank you to those of you who have offered your assistance, I'll be catching up with you in the near future.

Thank you also to everyone who provided feedback on possible dates for the reunion. It is always difficult to suit everyone but I'm hoping that with close to a year's notice many of you can return to Albies over the weekend 20—22 March 2009.

Please note that the program is only in Draft format and I'm open to suggestions for what you'd like to see and do when you return to College. Over the next few months additional pages will be added to the St Albert's Web Site which will keep you up to date with planning.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Friday: Evening reception & registration (hosted by JCR—TBC)

Saturday: BBQ Breakfast at Netball
Netball matches (Albies v Robb)
Registration at College (for Saturday arrivals)
Tours & displays around College & UNE
BBQ lunch at Rugby
Rugby afternoon – Golden Oldies, Albies v Robb
Dinner & Anniversary Ball

Sunday: Breakfast at College
Mass
Tours & displays around College
Lunch—Local vineyard (hosted by SCR—TBC)
BBQ dinner at Albies

Email your suggestions to: albiesalumni@une.edu.au.

Hope to see you all back here in March 2009.

Your Stories



Dash across the Nullarbor

—Nat Groves (2003-2006)

Thank you to Nat Groves for providing this inspiring account of his charity bike ride across Australia with fellow ex-Albies resident Matt Sheppard and his two UK mates, Muzz and DZ. Congratulations to all these young men for achieving such a remarkable feat.

On the 27th of February 2008, Matt Sheppard, Murray Campbell, DZ (Driver) and I – Nat Groves – set off from Fremantle WA on what we anticipated to be the challenge of a life time. We expected it to be tough but we were full of motivation and had amazing support from our friends and family which would eventually push us over the hills and across the endless plains.

During the lead up to the starting date, Matt and I were put up in 5 star accommodation on either side of an ex-Albies bed, thanks to Carl Trevaskis. It has to be said that as good as the accommodation and hospitality were – there were a few too many beverages on offer. This was probably not the best lead up to a cycle across Australia but in true Albies spirit was the perfect way to catch up with two other old-Albies members – Brendan 'WA' Williamson and Roger Robinson.

We quickly got into a routine with each morning starting at 4:30am. This gave us half an hour to wake up, get ready and jump on the bike for a 60km session before breakfast all the while experiencing the most amazing sun-rises. After breakfast we would head off to do another 90km by 11am. We'd then pull up out of the heat of the day, usually in a hotel or a roadhouse with air-conditioning but sometimes we were restricted to a hot, shady, fly ridden tree in the middle of nowhere. During this time off we would usually go for a swim and try to get a couple of hours sleep as we knew fatigue would be the factor that could restrict us from achieving our goal. When the temperature slowly started to drop around 5:50pm we were back on the saddle for another 2 ½ hours. We'd aim to cover 60km before we pulled up camp for the night. Nearing the end of each session, our support driver would go ahead 10km to setup camp and cook so that we could have a quick feed and be off to bed, ready for a bright and early start the next day.

With the adventure unwinding with every pedal, we soon found out the difficulties of cycling and the challenges that would be faced along the road. Temperatures for the first 20 days were between 37-45 Degrees Celsius. The days become very long and draining on the body, especially as we were cycling against a head wind for most of the journey. Concentration at times was lacking and this often was dangerous and was the cause of three crashes, one of which Shep knocked himself out, and the others leaving Shep and myself with some bark off. But even with these little mishaps, it didn't deter us from pushing on at every opportunity.

With an average speed of just under 30km/hour for most days, we quickly started knocking off the kilometres. For the first 16 days we average 205km a day which put us in a good position – we had reached NSW and were on schedule to complete the ride into Bondi on 20th March. At Hay we ran into another familiar face, Will Schiller. Will and his mother Lyn kindly put us up for the night as well as showing the Brit's one hell of a good BBQ and letting them experience some of the enjoyments of living in rural Australia.

Photos from top: Muzz, Matt, Nat & DZ; Ben with the boys; Ben & Nat; Matt & Nat riding into Bondi



Your Stories

Dash Across the Nullarbor Cont.

On the 17th March we rode into Bathurst. This was a huge buzz for us as we had an exciting day ahead. We met up with James 'Teddy' Horsburgh and Ben Houlison who have both suffered spinal cord injuries and are now restricted to wheel chairs. After some breakfast with Ted and Ben, we headed out of Bathurst with a new riding partner. Ben had joined us for the ride to Lithgow – one of the toughest legs of the trip. With sheer determination Ben made the 60km uphill struggle in great time even though he hadn't ridden 60km before. We were feeling the fatigue and each day was getting tougher and tougher but the way in which Ben approached the ride and did not give up, gave the three of us even more motivation to finish and to see our ride through.

The day had finally come – 20th March and we were 85km from Bondi. Our spirits and moral were sky high. There were many screams of joy and also laughs and jokes said on that last day riding into Sydney. Not even three punctures could take the ear to ear grins off our faces. At about 12 noon we rode along Bondi to the northern end where friends, family and members of Paraquad NSW were there to welcome and congratulate us. It was so good to see everyone, as well as the large proportion of present and past Albies faces who were keen to say G'Day.

By 7pm that night a crowd was filling Ramsey Hall which had been kindly donated by St Ignatius College. It was a very successful evening and a great way to finish the ride. Two hundred and ten people attended, including two guest speakers, *Senator Ursula Stephens and Matt Laffan. We also held a memorabilia auction, as well as a very enjoyable performance by the whip cracking kids from Gunnedah and a terrific performance by three of Shep's ex-Riverview mates who entertained us with some classy songs. It was great to see so many friends from Albies attend and support the occasion, including the current Head of College, Geoff Johnston and Dean, Pip Kneen. It just goes to show that there is something special about the Albies community. Once you're in it, you're there for life.

In the 4000km travelled we went through seven tyres and upwards of 20 tubes – 6 punctures coming in the last leg from Lithgow to Sydney. We also went through 350 litres of Powerade /Gatorade and 400 litres of water between the three of us. Our main meals were usually pasta or rice but we managed to slip in a few steaks along the way. Of the 22 nights we were away, we camped along the road six times which was a great experience and something that I'm sure none of us will ever forget. For the other 16 nights, local establishments and motels kindly donated a night's accommodation toward the cause. Without these vital donations the trip wouldn't have been the success that it was.

There hasn't been an exact figure for the amount raised for ParaQuad NSW and for Teddy Horsburgh and Rob Dempsey but latest calculations put the total well over \$35,000. This value has well and truly exceeded Shep's and my greatest expectations. Our success has been largely due to the support from our families, current Albies students, Albies Alumni, Junior Common Room Members, Albies Rugby Club and the Senior Common Room. **We cannot thank you enough for your support.**

Senator Stephens' moving speech from the fundraising evening can be seen in full at www.ursulastephens.com and follow the links under 'Speeches'.



1. The boys with some of the Albies crew at Bondi
2. The boys with the ParaQuad crew
3. Lucy Wedlock, Prue Roddy, Lauren Moate & Sarah White
4. Teddy with Gerard Stephen
5. Nat Groves, Cal Walker, Jeff Noonan, Sam Lee & Doug Biffin

Your Stories

Rugby at Albies 1969

— Trevor & Janice Knight

It was quite remarkable that, from the start, St Albert's College was the only college within the University, with a nickname. The name "Albies" was born just before Orientation Week in 1969. That nickname became one of the rallying cries of the College's sporting teams' supporters when urging on their heroes and more recently, their heroines.

The JCR quickly helped to organise a group of students to get involved in track and field; others formed a cricket team and another group came up with an Aussie Rules team. But a few students didn't think it was right to have a residential college without a rugby club – they wanted an opportunity to play football, drink beer with their mates and meet girls. So Andy Brown and Kevin Montgomery went around the College door-knocking and collecting personal and sporting details about each student.

Four days later they had a trial game against Robb College, with the Albies players wearing a variety of guernseys. The result was a 6-all draw. Before they could enter the New England competition though, there was a need to establish a viable Rugby Club.

The St Albert's College Rugby Union Football Club, the first sporting club to be formally inaugurated in the College, was formed on Tuesday evening, 17 March 1969, when two dozen enthusiastic young men gathered for its first meeting and the election of office bearers. As it was a new club with limited numbers, Albies was allowed to field only one team in 1969 – a third grade team. They elected three patrons Mrs Snell, the wife of the licensee of the Imperial Hotel, Fr Fitzgerald and Mr Robert Hanna, a local businessman.

At this first meeting they debated the club's colours but couldn't agree. Some time later they suggested something with a "considerable amount of yellow in it." The New England Rugby Union (NERU) rejected this as another possible club (Tingha) had yellow in its jumpers and allocated the Club the old South Sydney Rugby League club colours as these were easy to obtain and would be inexpensive. Thus red and green became the Club colours and a general meeting of the JCR also adopted them as the College colours.

The rugby players started training under captain Kevin Montgomery, assisted by Wal Whitely and after a few sessions a 30-or-so-year-old fellow turned up and asked if he could train with the team to get fit.



St Albert's 1969 Third Grade Premier Winners

Soon he was invited to be their coach and Trevor Knight proved to be an excellent coach. The first official game played was a pre-season knockout game at the Armidale Showground and it was the only game they didn't win that first year.

At a general meeting of the Club on 21 April 1969, the following, somewhat ambiguous resolution was passed, establishing the Club's constitution:

That the Constitution consist of common sense among the executive with the reservation of the right from financial Club members to question decisions made by the executive in their absence.

(Knight, 2001:2)

This remained the constitution for about 10 years, until the (NERU) became incorporated and required all clubs to have a more substantial constitution.

Under the guidance of coach Trevor Knight and captain Kevin Montgomery the side developed its skills and went through the season undefeated. In the NERU competition Albies drew two games and won eleven. Then after winning both the semi-final and final they moved on to beat Robb College (1) in the Grand Final 25-0. Throughout this first season Albies scored 241 points and had only 52 points scored against them.

When the College made the rugby Grand Final, College supporters went to Hanna's and obtained red and green material. From this material the first Albies' College flag was made. It was first unfurled "in anger" on 2 August 1969 when the 3rd Grade team took the field at the Grand Final.

After the victory the flag was displayed in the College Dining Hall behind the High Table. Later, the College crest was added to the middle section of the flag. Over the coming years this flag became the prize sought by many colleges in their raids on the College. Much later in the early 1990s, the Spanish Dominican Fr Julio Recio, became concerned when he saw the flag and asked SCR member Dr Ron Green:

Why does the College display the flag of Portugal?

(Knight, 2001: 104)

(continued on Page 7)

Your Stories

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this section of the Newsletter. If you'd like to submit "your story" for future editions of Veritas, please forward your information to: albiesalumni@une.edu.au.

Remembering Dave Killen— Fr Tim Cahill

Dave Killen was employed at St Albert's College between 1969 and 1990. Sadly he passed away in 2006. Fr Tim Cahill, a student at Albies between 1975 and 1977 has very fond memories of Dave, which he has kindly agreed to share with us.

I was sad to hear of Dave Killen's death - he was good value!

My favourite Dave memory was when he was fixing the scoreboard in the billiards room sometime in 1976, and some (probably A-Block) student came into the JCR and put on a record of his favourite, rather heavy-metal music.

Dave put up with it for a while, but then it got the better of him; so he went in to the JCR, picked up the record cover, and began reading it.

Thinking he had found a soul mate, the said student came over to Dave and said, "So, do you like my music, Dave?" To which Dave laconically replied, in his inimitable accent: "No, I was just finding out what exactly it was, to make sure I never buy it by mistake."

Dave Killen with Ilona Eberle



Ryan Pratten—Landmark NSW Award



Congratulations to Ryan Pratten on winning the Landmark NSW Young Agronomist of the Year Award. Ryan received his award at the Landmark NSW Agronomy Dinner, held March 13 in the Hunter Valley.

Ryan lived at Albies between 2002 and 2004 and now works for Landmark Narromine.

Thanks to Charlie Mill, Albies current Senior Resident Adviser, who recognised Ryan in The Land and passed on the information.

Rugby at Albies 1969 (Continued from Pg 6)

It has been amazing to watch the development of rugby at Albies. From the tiny beginning of one team in the Third Grade, the Club has graduated through Second and First Grades to become one of the major rugby forces in New England and surrounds.

One product of involvement in rugby at Albies has been the establishment of lifelong friendships and networks. Janice and Trevor Knight have found this to be particularly rewarding. A couple of weeks ago, their

'phone rang and the caller was Rod Gates, a rugby player of the early 1970s who was in Adelaide and who wanted to see the Knights if possible. A very pleasant dinner at a restaurant in North Adelaide, with Rod and wife Jill, followed.

Thank you to Trevor and Janice Knight for providing information for this article.

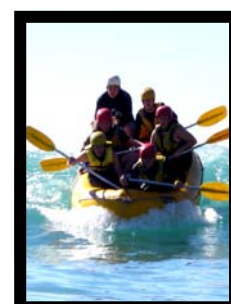
Around the College

Early in February the new student leadership team undertook 10 days of extensive training to prepare them for their new role in College.



As part of the team building activities, the leaders spent a few days in Coffs Harbour where they were introduced to Surf Rafting and participated in an “Amazing Race” around Coffs Harbour and the hinterland.

I was fortunate enough to also be involved in the training and it gave me the opportunity to get to know our student leaders prior to the start of the year. What a great bunch of young people we have here at Albies.



A few familiar surnames are amongst this year's student leaders, including Charlie Mill — Senior RA— younger brother of Geoff Mill (2003-2005) and Jess O'Connor— Deputy Senior RA—daughter of Pat (1978—1982) and Rita (1979—1982, nee Odessa) O'Connor.

The Resident Student Team (RST) put their training to work during O-Week and Term 1. They're doing a wonderful job—reflected by the fact that our freshers have settled in exceptionally well and they're all still here!



Ladies Day: RAs Kate Carrigan, Pru Roddy and Jess O'Connor



Billy Madison Day



O Week Tour Guides

Around the College

Academic Pursuits

We recently acknowledged our scholars at our Annual College Academic Dinner. Almost forty students received College and University scholarships and prizes in recognition of their academic, sporting, community and leadership achievements.

Albies students are consistently successful in gaining a significant number of the prestigious UNE scholarships and this year is no exception. Our first year students were successful in receiving 25% of UNE's top scholarships, including the Wool Industry Scholarship, Hyman Rural Medicine Scholarship and a number of the UNE Country Scholarships.

Our returning students have also done well. Gillian Burke from Tamworth, who is in her final year of a Bachelor of Rural Science (Hon), received the Roberson-Cunningham Honours Scholarship in addition to the Arthur Heath Memorial Scholarship for her exceptional results in Rural Science.



Gillian Burke pictured with Luke Volker, Senior Resident Adviser and College Master, Mr Geoff Johnston

Dan Stephen, recipient of one of the Diocesan Investment Group's Scholarships with his parents, Gerard and Lyla Stephen



Graduation

Earlier this month, 91 current and past Albies students graduated from UNE. They were treated to beautiful Autumn weather and from what I've heard, a very social weekend.

Our students traditionally maintain a high level of academic excellence and this was highlighted by Brendan Williamson receiving the University Medal for his studies in a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with First Class Honours. Brendan returned from Western Australia to receive his award.

Other Albies students to receive First Class Honours were: Sam Clark (Bachelor of Rural Science), Ian Horsburgh (Bachelor of Agricultural Economics) and Grant Parnell (Bachelor of Science).

Three of our Alumni graduated with Masters Degrees: Matthew Brown (2001), Amanda Macalpine (2003 – 2005) and Sharon Pettiford (1993).

Congratulations to all our graduates

Photos clockwise from top left:

Brendan Williamson (Blue Rock, WA) receiving his university medal from Mr James Harris, Deputy Chancellor.

Brooke Smoothy (Wingham), Shanna Baker (Grafton) and Rachael Watkins (Boambee) received their Bachelor of Education along with Hayley Watt John Harris, SCR Member

Sam Martel with his parents Louise & Hugh Martel (Dubbo) received his Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (Honours)

Nicolas Flood (Armidale) received a Bachelor of Education

Rebecca Richardson (Armidale) pictured with Professor Alan Pettegrew, Vice-Chancellor after receiving her Bachelor of Communication

Chaddy Mardini (Chester Hill) receiving his combined Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Laws (Honours)



Around the College

Medical Students

It's wonderful to see our more experienced members of College giving up their free time to mentor our students. On Monday evenings Dr John Flynn, Staff Specialist – Physician at the Armidale Hospital and member of our Senior Common Room, can be found at St Albert's College conducting tutorials for the eight Medical students residing in College. John's mentoring is proving a valuable resource, assisting the students with their studies as well as helping them settle into university and college life.

We are very fortunate to have someone of John's calibre associated with the College. He has had a long association with St Albert's College: a member of the SCR since the mid 1980s; his son Michael is an alumnus of Albies

and currently has a cousin in residence. John also brings a wealth of knowledge to the College. He is a Colonel in the Australian Army and the Consultant Physician to the Australian Defence Force. John has served in Rwanda, East Timor, Bougainville, The Solomon Islands, Iraq, Afghanistan and in 2005 was the Senior Medical Officer in Banda Aceh following the Tsunami.

"My motivation in assisting these students is two-fold. It is a wonderful initiative to have a School of Rural Medicine here in Armidale and we need to provide support to ensure its development and success. Hopefully it will encourage Doctors to come to rural areas. These students are all young and away from home, some for the first time and it's important they have access to a strong network. College life is a wonderful

opportunity and allows them to meet people they may not have met if they were living independently. They have the chance to develop friendships with students across all disciplines and experience rural life, which is an integral part of growth and development in medicine."

Dr John Flynn pictured with Albies medical students Symone Spelling (Lismore) & Katie Gordon (Warrilda)



Albies Students feature in Australian Meat Judging Team

Amy Watt (Condobolin), Dylan Duncan (Narrabri) and ex-Albies resident Kathleen Marshall (Tamworth) travelled to the USA in January to attend the National Western Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition, held at the Denver Stock Show, Colorado.

Our students were among the five students selected nationwide to represent Australia in the USA. This is quite a coup for Albies as over 80 tertiary students from across Australia competed for a place in the Australian Team.

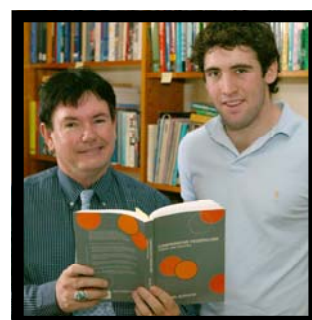
All performed very well, particularly Dylan who was successful in winning the Junior Beef Judging competition. Well done!

Braeden Donnelly Wins Prestigious Essay Competition

Braeden Donnelly's essay on comparative federalism won 2nd place in the 2007 Governor-General's Undergraduate Essay Competition. Over 700 undergraduate students nationwide submitted essays choosing from a range of nine possible topics. Braeden's essay analysed contrasting patterns in the development of federalism in Canada and Australia, and suggested lessons that nations like Iraq might draw from such an analysis when contemplating the introduction of a federal system.

In addition to writing the essay, Braeden had to undergo a rigorous interview by a panel of examiners including Justice Michael Kirby (High Court of Australia) and Professor George Winterton (Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney). Braeden will be presented with his prize by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery at a ceremony in Sydney.

Braeden is presently studying towards combined degrees in Law, Arts and Business. He is also undertaking regular work experience with a local law firm associated with one of our alumni members.



On the Sporting Field



The annual “Fresher” Rugby and Netball clashes between Albies and Robb were played in a highly spirited manner. More than 400 spectators turned out to witness Albies win over Robb both on the Rugby field and on the Netball court. This was the sixth consecutive year Albies has beaten Robb in the fresher Rugby match.

A strong contingent of Albies supporters travelled to Narrabri on March 7 for the Southwell-Hannaford Memorial Rugby Trophy between Albies First IV and Narrabri Blue Boars. The game was played in good spirit with Blue Boars narrowly defeating Albies. The trophy is a commemoration of Felicity Southwell and Brad Hannaford who were tragically killed in a car accident in July 2006.

The annual Charles Sturt University (CSU) – Bathurst and Albies Rugby clashes were contested on Saturday, March 29. Albies had a win in Reserves and Colts but unfortunately went down in First Grade.

Already this year a number of our students have been successful in gaining representative selection. Emma Gillogly (Port Macquarie) recently represented Northern NSW at the Australian Open Touch Football Championships. Two of our Rugby players – Tom Cullen and Tom Hollis – played in the Cockatoos Rugby Union Team’s first game against ACT & Southern NSW in Canberra on 19 April.



Keeping in Touch

We'd love to hear what you've been up to since leaving College. Please send your details and photos (prior to 31 July) to albiesalumni@une.edu.au for inclusion in the next newsletter.



Tracey Buss (nee Gee, 1983—1987) &

Richard Buss (1982—1985): Richard and I met at St Albert's College in 1983. Richard graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Social Science. He is now Area Director of Mental Health with North Coast Area Health Service. He later returned to Armidale to complete a Master of Letters at UNE in 1988. He has since completed a Master of Social Science and is now finishing off his PhD thesis through Southern Cross University (SCU), Lismore.

I completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education. I have taught English and History in Tumut, Canberra, Coffs Harbour and Lismore. I now lecture at SCU and am a University Advisor for the School of Education. I completed a Master of Education in 1996 and am now also writing my PhD thesis at SCU, Lismore.

We were married on 26 January, 1991 and have since produced two happy and healthy children. The eldest is Jackson Patrick who is now 13 years and Kelsey Mahalia who is 10 years old. We have kept in contact with several ex-Albies people and often speak by telephone and e-mail.

Fr Tim Cahill (1975—1977): When I left Albies at the end of 1977, (returning to graduate in April 1978), I took up an exchange teaching position in France for 12 months from Sept 1978. Upon my return, I worked briefly around the Central West of NSW, before heading off to St Patrick's College, Manly in Feb 1980, to begin my seminary studies. I was ordained a priest for the Catholic diocese of Bathurst on 7th Dec 1985, in my home town of Wellington NSW, and have ministered since in the parishes of Bathurst Cathedral (1986-89), Cowra (1990-91), Dunedoo (2000-02) & Wellington (2003 - present).



From 1992-99 I was Chaplain at Charles Sturt University (Mitchell) at Bathurst - a time I enjoyed immensely! I have 'come home to roost', being back in my home town, which is also rather nice — it's good to give something back to the community that nurtured you... I also worked briefly in New Caledonia during early 1993; and have accompanied our diocese's World Youth Day contingents to the WYDs in Rome (2000) & Cologne (2005) - all those languages I did at UNE came in useful!

I've only managed to get back to one Albies reunion, on a June long weekend around 1997 (as parish ministry makes getting away for weekends a bit difficult). But I had great times there, and am still in touch with a few friends from that era... sadly I've lost contact with many others whose memories I fondly treasure.

Nick Flood (2003—2006): Nick graduated with a B. Education (Primary) this year and is currently completing a Masters of Business Administration. Nick works as a Schools Liaison Officer with Marketing & Public Affairs, UNE.

Fr Denis Hallinan (1978—1986): I am currently living in Rome and expect to be here until about 2012 but get back to Australia from time to time. I look forward to some participation in the events of 2009, at the very least my annual telephone call on the Feast of St Albert, 15 November. Any alumni passing through Rome are cordially invited to call in and say hello. We are close to the main point of arrival, Stazione Termini. My address is:

Collegio dei Penitenzieri di Santa Maria Maggiore
Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore, 8
00185 ROME
ITALY

Alternatively, I can be contacted via my email address: denis.hallinan@op.org

Chris Lai (1979—1982): I completed my Bachelor of Financial Administration in 1983, graduating in 1984 and I'm currently operating my own mortgage consultancy business. I'm living in Baulkham Hills, NSW and I'm married with three children. I recently caught up with Rallas Buttriss (1979—1982) and Margie Buttriss (nee Walker) (1979—1981) while holidaying in Melbourne with my family.

Gaye Piper (nee Aubrey—1983—1985): I'm living back in Armidale and working as a relief teacher and in our family business. Our extended family of five children keeps us extremely busy.

A BLOCK 1979



B BLOCK 1979



C BLOCK 1979



D & E Blocks can be found on page 17

Alumni Profiles

This edition's Alumni profiles are from students in the late 70s and early 80s. Thanks to Gennie Gittoes (nee Feain) and Greg Eddy for kindly agreeing to share their Albies memories. Gennie was the first female to win 'Sportsman of the Year' ... and as a fresher! Greg has experienced both sides of the desk at Albies—firstly as a student and later returned as Dean.

Genevieve Gittoes (nee Feain) - alias "Feains"



YEARS AT COLLEGE

1978-1981

ROOMS AT COLLEGE

Bottom A, Bottom E, Middle E and Bottom D Tutor

WHO WERE YOUR COLLEGE NEIGHBOURS?

Kelly Turner, Mandy Close, Maria Redgrove and Catherine O'Connor

LIFE SINCE ALBIES

- I worked in Cootamundra on a horse spelling enterprise until I Married Chris Gittos in 1985 in Sydney, and moved to Mareeba. Chris is also an alumnus of Albies and completed a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture).
- I obtained my professional coaching qualifications and set up a coaching school which grew considerably over the four years I was running the school.
- Our first child Madeleine was born in 1987 with Dominique following in 1988 and Patrick in 1990.
- We moved to Cairns in 1989 where I continued coaching. We then moved to Toowoomba and set up a coffee roasting business which took us to Brisbane in 1992 and settled in Kenmore.
- Chris had decided to try a career change and applied to the Post Graduate Medicine course and was successful. He studied for 6 years and graduated in 2001. Over those years I set up a large tennis business in Kenmore and coached 200 children a week.
- We moved to Tamworth in 2003 where Chris entered the Rural Training programme. I did a bit of coaching then started working for NSW Farmers Association as a Regional Manager for the New England.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ST ALBERTS?

Actually my parents did. It was Albies or nothing! Although I didn't choose Albies I realized in less than a week of being there, I would have changed to Albies if I had chosen another College.

FONDEST MEMORY OF COLLEGE

There are so many but the two that stand out are winning the Sportsman of the Year and Albies winning the Rugby 1st Premiership in 1981 ... it was huge ... bigger than Ben Hurr— the spirit of Albies was incredible!!!

FUNNIEST MEMORY OF COLLEGE

My mum and Dad were up visiting and they came into Sunday morning mass. I'd slept in and they came

looking for me. They got the Blocks mixed up and when they knocked on the door and got a male voice they were horrified to say the least ... their little girl was in this mixed college which was a frightening thought!

BEST LESSON LEARNT AT COLLEGE

That all you put into something, the rewards come back tenfold.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT COLLEGE THAT HAS SERVED YOU THROUGH LIFE?

Always strive high and you will never be disappointed as the reward is in the 'Journey' (and all you have the privilege to meet) not in the 'Destination'

BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED AT COLLEGE

Never be scared to have a go. At Albies you knew you always had support and that there was always someone who cared.

ARE YOU STILL IN CONTACT WITH ANY OF YOUR OLD COLLEGE FRIENDS?

I have had lots of contact with Christmas cards and catching up where possible—you usually find an old Albies face or friend everywhere you go, it is amazing.

VISITS BACK TO COLLEGE?

Due to living in the far North it was hard to return but we made it back for the 25th Anniversary. Now that we are fairly local and have joined the SCR we have had more regular visits. It's great to be back and little has really changed, particularly that close bonded spirit. Oh and yes they sing the song differently.

FAVOURITE MEAL AT COLLEGE

Breakfast ... they couldn't mess that up too much!

FAVOURITE SOCIAL ACTIVITY AT COLLEGE

Albies Cabaret Nights and all the different themes — the outfits, costumes, and characters were ingenious and hysterical. I will never forget when a group of them came as the Sullivans (old war TV serial) but the most important character, the mum, Grace had just died. Well, they came in carrying a huge box as the coffin. Everyone gave a minutes silence as they entered.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I wasn't at all musical but basically participated in everything that was College related, had a go even if it wasn't my strength. Sport, of course, being the big one and I played Intervarsity tennis and won the UNE singles, Doubles and Mixed most of the years I was in College.



Gennie making her speech as 'Sportsman of the Year' 1978 (the JCR President is in the background).



Gennie receiving the 'Sportsman of the Year' trophy

Greg Eddy

YEARS AT COLLEGE

1978-1981 and then as Dean of Students from 1991-1995

ROOMS AT COLLEGE

E3, E7, Top B and Top E Flat

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ST ALBERTS?

Friends had recommended it and there were five of us from the same school starting at that time.

FONDEST MEMORY OF COLLEGE

They were all wonderful years.

LIFE SINCE ALBIES

After leaving Albies I taught at St Stanislaus College in Bathurst from 1982-1990. I was Head of History for the last four years, spent some time as Housemaster and coached swimming and the 1st XV (1987-1990) – I was a better coach than a player!!

I completed a Masters degree externally through UNE and enjoyed calling in on the College while there for an external school. In 1990, Fr Kevin Sanders (Master at Albies) asked me if I would be interested in the Dean's position. I started in May of that year and spent four years as Dean.

It was the best decision I ever made. I soon met my wife (Thérèse Comerford had just returned to Armidale to teach at TAS). Terry, as she was better known, was at Mary White from 1979-1982 and while we had many friends in common we hadn't met before. We were introduced by Peter Cunich at an Albies Reunion in September 1991 and were married in January 1993. Our three sons James (14), Nicholas (12) and Luke (10) were all born in Armidale and were all baptized by different Dominicans (Fathers Saunders, Mutlow and Foote).

In 1995 I was appointed Master at Earle Page College and served on the University Council for a year in 1998-99. Towards the end of 1999, I was appointed Principal and CEO at Dunmore Lang College, an independent College within Macquarie University. During those years I completed a Company Directors' Course and was elected a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Late in 2004 I was appointed Master and Chief Executive at King's College within The University of Queensland and have just commenced my fourth year in that role. Thérèse spends two days each week working for the College's Foundation and our three sons are all at Marist College Ashgrove.

FUNNIEST MEMORY OF COLLEGE

Hosting on Top E what Fr Hallinan (Master at the time) called "the most outrageous" party he had ever seen at Albies.

BEST LESSON LEARNT AT COLLEGE

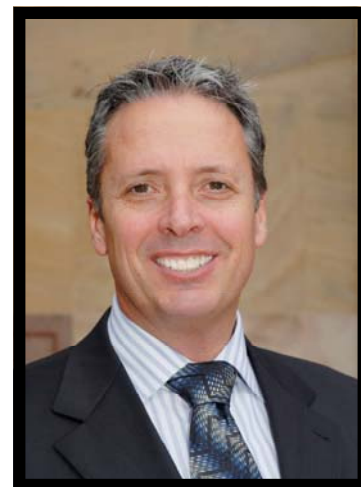
Be careful when hosting outrageous parties.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT COLLEGE THAT HAS SERVED YOU THROUGH LIFE?

How important those years are for developing friendships and experiences for later life.

BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED AT COLLEGE

Fr Hallinan was an outstanding man (and still is). By his very example he taught me many valuable lessons.



ARE YOU STILL IN CONTACT WITH ANY OF YOUR OLD COLLEGE FRIENDS?

Yes – quite a few and I enjoy catching up with people when we have our annual “reunion” in Brisbane at the end of the year. TD has done a great job getting that organized and it would be good if more came along.

VISITS BACK TO COLLEGE?

When we visit Armidale we normally drive by and call in when possible.

FAVOURITE MEAL AT COLLEGE

Not a favourite but the funniest—in 1980, Dulcify was the favourite for the Melbourne Cup. In the home stretch Dulcify broke down and later had to be shot on course. That evening’s dinner was impossible to describe and TD (Tony Dennis), quick witted as always, christened it “Dulcify Pie”.

FAVOURITE SOCIAL ACTIVITY AT COLLEGE

A night at the Grand Hotel.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Most PT sports and a very average Rugby player – great claim to fame was being “Vatican All Star” of the year in my final year.

D BLOCK 1979



E BLOCK 1979



Blast from the Past—1978

St. Albert's College

The University of New England



Albies Women's Premiership Basketball Team 1978

University of New England
ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Phone: 02 6773 6004
Fax: 02 6773 6399
E-mail: albiesalumni@une.edu.au
www.une.edu.au/campus/st-alberts/



Albies Women's Sport 1978



*Please forward your submissions and photos for
the next edition to albiesalumni@une.edu.au
Prior to 31 July*