In Memory of Robert James Norman Bickerdike
4th September, 1927 - 21st April, 2008

The All Saints’ College community was deeply saddened to hear of the passing away of former Headmaster, Bob Bickerdike, in the second week of the April school holidays. Bob was All Saints’ 13th Headmaster and will be fondly remembered for his warmth, compassion, caring, “cheek-to-cheek” smile and the real gentleman that he was.

Born in the UK (Ipswich, Suffolk) in 1927, Bob received his secondary education at Monkton Combe School, where he was Head Prefect as well as being a keen runner, rower and rugby player. He graduated from Oxford with a Master of Arts (Economics & Agricultural Science).

Bob married Winifred on December 27th, 1952 and they became the proud parents of four sons. The Bickerdikes migrated to Australia in 1953. Wherever they lived, Bob and Winifred took an active role with local church groups. Bob had a particular interest in running bible groups throughout his life.

The following overview of Bob’s working life was taken from the Thanksgiving Service that celebrated his life and faith.

- British Army, 1946-1949, served as an officer in Palestine.
- Teacher, 1959-1964, Caulfield Campus, Caulfield Grammar School, Melbourne (Victoria).
- Principal, 1975-1984, Girton College, Bendigo (Victoria).

The following is an edited version of Bob’s valete written by Bruce Clydsdale for the 1992 Bathurstian. Bruce was Deputy Headmaster at the time and he, along with Tessa Jones, will be writing a more comprehensive and personal report for this year’s Bathurstian.

“The appointment of the 13th Headmaster ushered in an era of considerable change. Almost as soon as he arrived at All Saints’, Bob was thrust into an immediate fundraising activity to provide what was to be an ongoing and extensive building programme during his eight years of leadership. There were three distinctive strands to his Headship – spiritual, cultural and buildings. He left the school with a substantial increase in enrolments (especially boarding), a much enlarged Junior School and a much healthier educational environment.

All associated with the school found him to be approachable and accessible. He gave freely of his time, his talents and his positive approach to problems. He would always greet you with a smile, no matter how difficult the day may have been.

His major achievements have been the upgrading of the physical amenities of the school – including the Industrial Arts block, Lyon and Kemmis Houses, the Japanese Centre and the multipurpose hall (the Bickerdike Centre).

Bob and Winifred travelled extensively throughout NSW and overseas to promote the school and to ensure it was in the forefront of educational institutions. This demanding itinerary enabled a diversified enrolment programme to be undertaken with students not only being enrolled from countries within South-East Asia, but also enabling the isolated rural student to receive educational opportunities which would otherwise be foregone. This emphasis on cultural diversity was one of the hallmarks of the Bickerdike era.

The All Saints’ College family owe Bob and Winifred a tremendous debt of gratitude for their commitment during their eight years at the school.”

Although Bob ‘retired’ after his stint at All Saints’, those who knew him were not surprised when he took on the role of Principal at the Kathmandu International Study Centre (Nepal) in 1995-1996.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Winifred and the Bickerdike family.

Bob Poole (Editor)
Greetings to all Old Bathurstians – I write at a time of significant change for our old school, with the appointment of a new Head of College. May I take this opportunity to welcome on your behalf the arrival of the new Head of College, Mr Peter Miller, and his wife Naomi and their three young children. Peter comes to us from Barker College in Hornsby, a large Anglican CAS school in Sydney where he was Head of the Middle School and which is co-educational in Years 10 to 12. Peter has a teaching background in Geography and is a qualified Rugby referee and has represented Australia in rowing.

Peter took up his new appointment on 1 July and will bring a youthful enthusiasm to the College. I know he would appreciate the opportunity of catching up with as many Old Bathurstians as possible, so please call in to the school if you are passing by.

Since my last report in February, your Committee has met on two occasions, in March and in June. I am pleased to report that despite the significant volatility in the Australian Stock Market, the net assets of the OBU have declined by less than 2% as at 30 June. The net assets sit just below the minimum corpus set out in the new constitution. I would like to applaud the efforts of David Provost and his Finance Sub-committee for this excellent result in difficult circumstances.

The History project is making good progress, now that Chris Morgan, the project co-ordinator, is able to devote more of his valuable time to collation of records and drafting the text. We are on track to completing this substantial undertaking by the middle of 2009, in the year of the College’s 135th anniversary. I am very grateful to the efforts of Rodney Templeman and his History Sub-committee in overseeing this project.

On the social side, I attended another successful Dubbo Dinner on 8 March. More than 50 members and their spouses and partners were present and heard some interesting and humorous reminiscences from Robert Wilson, Mayor of Parkes (ASC 1954-1958), who is the longest serving Mayor in Australian Local Government. My thanks as always to the organising committee and for the contribution to OBU funds generated by the dinner.

The indefatiguable David Coote again organised a Sydney dinner for the older membership. The dinner was held on 7 June and was attended by 20 or so members and spouses. This was an improvement on the 6 November dinner, but still short of the minimum size to justify David’s efforts. I hope I can prevail again on David to give the event one last try.

My thanks again to Dawn and Barry Lamph for hosting the Nyngan Dinner on 2 August. From all reports, another excellent occasion was held with some 20 guests in attendance.

The AGM of the OBU will be held at the College on Saturday, 6 September with the reunion dinner held that evening. I urge as many of you as possible to attend both the meeting and the dinner. Remember that it is your association and not the Committee’s so your attendance and participation would be most welcome, and provides a wonderful opportunity to re-energise your support of the school.

Under the terms of the OBU Constitution, I will be stepping down from the Presidency at the upcoming AGM, having served four years in that role. This will therefore be my last VIM report, and gives me the opportunity of thanking all those members whom I have caught up with in recent times and in particular, for the support of my fellow Committee members. I hope you will all remember your time at All Saints’ and Marsden and continue to be immensely proud of your alma mater, as I have and continue to be.

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Vin Suttor was originally enrolled into All Saints’, however when the school closed in 1919 (due to a myriad of pressures associated with World War 1) he briefly attended Wolaroi College (with Mr Stiles as Co Principal). Vin did not enjoy his experiences and spent considerable time frequenting the local picture theatre rather than attending class.

Under threat from his father to keep him at school until he actually passed the Leaving Certificate Examination, Vin eagerly accepted re enrolment in All Saints’ when the school reopened under the headship of Rev Watson. He enjoyed his time at the school during 1925-1926 and his memories have always been positive and witty even though in those days the conditions were austere.

Vin became involved during World War 2 in establishing a secret airfield on the family property “Triamble” at Hargreaves, should the Japanese ever invade Australia. The ‘fall-back’ position was to develop this facility into a major airstrip for the armed forces should this invasion have occurred.

It was here that Vin learned to fly, a passion he continued with for the rest of his life. He purchased an ex RAAF Tigermoth for 60 pounds at the end of the War and later sold it to a Canadian Museum for 3,000 pounds.

He preferred flying from the farm to conduct business or to visit Bathurst rather than driving as he found this tedious and time consuming. In later years his daughters Jan and Dianne, felt safer flying with their father than driving.

Vin retained his long association and interest in the school, becoming a long serving member of the All Saints’ School Council and inaugural member of the Foundation. Vin was present when the school acknowledged his contribution and importance in its history by naming a garden in his honour at Hargreaves, should the Japanese ever invade Australia. The ‘fall-back’ position was to develop this facility into a major airstrip for the armed forces should this invasion have occurred.

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Annual Dubbo Reunion

Special Guest at the Annual Dubbo Reunion on Saturday 8th March, was Mayor of Parkes, Councillor Robert Wilson OAM (ASC 1954-58). Robert, the longest serving Mayor in NSW, was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his outstanding involvement & knowledge of local government. Approximately 60 ex-students & partners attended the Dinner where many “school day yarns” were told!!

Don Pratley and John Stephenson.

50th Anniversary

The Dubbo Dinner marked a significant milestone for John Stephenson (Bourke) and Don Pratley (Bathurst) - photo above - as 2008 is the 50th anniversary of the first intake of students into Bradwardine House. They were two of the originals in the 1958 House photo (below) and the only two who remained there for all of the first four years of occupation at Bradwardine (1958-1961).
It didn’t seem 20 years since we last stood freezing on Watson oval chanting “OON TA TA OON TA TA BOOMARACKA HEY” while the 1st XV battled it out on the rugby field! But on a bitterly cold Saturday (21st June), we again found ourselves chatting with old friends and watching the ASC students strut their stuff against Central Coast Grammar. So many memories came flooding back, familiar surroundings, sights and smells...the notable difference however, was the annoying ache in these old bones of ours that even a win by the 1st XV could not quite overcome!

The afternoon started with a BBQ lunch before watching the rugby. Much had changed for those who had not visited the school for some time, but discussion quickly turned to catching up on the happenings in our lives over 20 years. With the final whistle and the victorious 1st XV’s “OON TA TA” echoing in our ears, we headed to the Chifley for a few warming drinks (to defrost the fingertips) before dinner. It was great to see more people join us at dinner, and it was certainly a fun and spirited occasion with good food, wine and company! Lots of funny stories of our school days were remembered, and news of current lives shared. Amazing how the same school background can lead us in so many diverse and interesting directions.

Unfortunately the night rolled by far too quickly, the early hours of the morning loomed. We walked the streets of Bathurst looking for the next venue, there was still tons to chat about and the reluctance to finish the night and head our separate ways again was clear... after that is a blur...! Arguably, the sign of a good night?!

It was truly wonderful that over 30 people trekked to Bathurst to be part of the reunion weekend. Some travelled long distances to join us and a special mention goes to Sue, who flew in from London, Ursula who was visiting from Texas, Syvaun and Trish from Brisbane, and Francesca from Adelaide. To everyone, thank you for making the effort to be there. We think that all of you would agree it was a special evening that we will certainly not forget. Although others could not make it we are sure you were there in spirit.... rest assured we all had a few drinks for you!

On Sunday we returned to our post school lives which began all those years ago in 1988. With the memories, experiences, friendship and emotion of our ASC lives rekindled, we think that all of us are a bit more aware of just how important our time at ASC was.

We would especially like to thank Jason Buckley and Sarah O’Neill for organising the reunion. We were all so pleased that you did, and thoroughly enjoyed catching up with old friends and revisiting the Bathurst haunts of our school days. There was even talk on the night that perhaps another reunion would be organised in the not too distant future.

How quickly 20 years passes.......
The OBU is attempting to reduce, if not cease, production of a hard copy of the OBU VIM. Please submit your email addresses below or email obu@saints.nsw.edu.au to update your email address to ensure you will continue to receive the OBU VIM.

Name: .................................................................................................................................................. Year and level completed ASC or Marsden:..............

Email address:........................................................................................................................................

Email addresses required
Alastair
Charles Martin
1987-2008
Forever & always in our hearts & memories
Donna Worthington (ASC 1996 – 2001) has recently endured a lengthy selection process and been accepted to represent Australian Youth through participation in the Australian Volunteers International’s Youth Program to India. Donna will travel as a volunteer to the southern regions of Tribal India where she will undergo humanitarian aid work. She asks for your support.

After finishing the whole ‘Uni thing’ and floating around within Australia for a number of years, I’ve felt a little disenchanted with the direction our world is taking. Everything revolves around the golden dollar. What happened to the number one in our lives being people?? Experience?? Relationships?? Not career, cash flow and possession. I felt myself slipping into this ‘material’ grasp and heard myself screaming to get out. How can I pull myself back to the real world we live in??

I’ve been a volunteer now with Meals on Wheels for over 5 years. It has always been a wonderful experience to help those in need, and I’ve enjoyed lending a hand in every town and state I’ve lived in to date. And so, inspired by tales of friends who have made their own difference to parts of the world, I started to suss out potential volunteer projects throughout Australia and abroad. It is then that I came across Australian Volunteers International and their Youth Program.

I’ve successfully completed their selection process, and leave to volunteer in Tribal India in December. I will be staying for a total of 3 months and working with a group of Australian Youth representatives to advance the progress of remote villages and their people. The majority of the work I will be undertaking will be with the children and the women of the villages, teaching them about the importance of hygiene via street theatre and games. Without doubt this will be no easy feat, considering the language barrier alone! (I’ve been practicing my mime skills with regular charades sessions….) We will also be working closely to educate the locals on important health issues such as HIV/AIDS, and environmental conservation including the importance of recycling. Our work by no means will be limited to health and education, but also construction and agricultural work, providing the means to each village we visit to support itself and function on its own economy.

I truly believe that the only way to make a difference in the world is to do it yourself, and so I am, true to the Australian Volunteers International Motto – ‘Be the change you want to see in the world.’ But I need help. As a component of the program I am required to raise a $4500 participation fee. The fee covers my accommodation, food, travel expenses within India, insurance costs and ensures that my involvement is not a strain on my host organization and families. Airfares are not included. The Fundraising element serves two purposes. Firstly, fundraising the money will give me a skill set that will be useful during my stay in India, specifically, rallying with local communities, and secondly, it raises awareness of the Youth Programs mission. I am undertaking a number of fundraising activities as I write, and I seek your support. I am willing to put my life aside and assist others, and although your circumstances may not allow such a contribution, your financial support will go a long way. Any donation over $2 is tax deductible, and you can be sure you know exactly where the money is going, unlike some charitable organizations. Please, if you think I’m embarking on a good deed and would be willing to buy me a beer for it, show your support.

I can be contacted on 0422 249 443, or via email dmworthington@hotmail.com.

Australian Volunteers have a number of different programs that may interest you or someone you know. Check out their Website www.australianvolunteers.com.au for more information.
Like All Saints’ we are now approaching the end of Term 1, 2008. It is hard to believe that the first third of our year is almost over. So much has happened, so much that is very different, so much that has been a challenge and so much that has not only been satisfying but most enjoyable. Sue and I extend to the entire All Saints’ College community greetings and best wishes from the School of St Jude here in Tanzania.

We arrived on the 1st January with 52 boxes of books and supplies and over $4,000 contributed by the school and general community. The school here is most grateful and is careful to acknowledge and allocate funds prudently.

Sue and I were busy from Day 1, mainly in the Library which was the distribution point for textbooks and resources. Now we have settled into our roles. I enjoy mentoring and supporting the local teachers, many of whom really appreciate being given help and advice that All Saints’ teachers take for granted. I have also enjoyed the few opportunities to take small ‘blocks’ whilst staff have babies or get married.

Sue has been busy climbing her steep learning curve when she accepted the administration/teaching position of Tuition Co-ordinator. Along with a small staff of three, Sue assists those students who are struggling. She is doing a marvellous job and winning the hearts of her students who want her to come home and meet the family. That is a most sobering experience as we approach a mud and dung hut 2 metres x 4 metres in which a family of seven live through wet and dry seasons. We quickly appreciate what Gemma Rice’s dream is all about and admire the attitude of the whole school community.

I would be pleased for you to visit www.schoolofstjude.co.tz to find out more about the school.

Needless to say we have enjoyed a wonderful time outside of school with westerners and locals mixing easily in a variety of social settings such as a Masai engagement party, a Muslim wedding, Rotary gatherings and drinks at “The Waterhole”.

Our mid-term break of one week was a highlight as we went on safari into the Serengeti. The wild animal life was amazing. We could lean out of our vehicle to pat a lion, a giraffe, a zebra or an elephant (not that it was suggested). Not just one or two but huge herds of wildebeest stretched out over the wide plains of the Serengeti or fifty hippos in a pool in Ngorogoro Crater. It was an awesome experience.

We miss Bathurst, we miss our family, we miss some creature comforts (but not many) but we know now that we made the right decision. We enjoy keeping in touch with All Saints’ through Junior School VIM, Weekly Revelations and the website and wish you all the very best as the College welcomes a new leader and continues to be a very special place for young people.
It is with regret that we record the death of Grahame Blowes who died on the 24th of May this year.

Graham and his wife Meg lived at “Karingal” Mt Lambie where they ran beef cattle and grew vast areas of magnificent daffodils. They opened their gardens each spring in aid of the Rydal Village Association and other charities.

Grahame was very active in community affairs - especially the local show and the Rural Bushfire Service where he became Senior Group Captain. Grahame and Meg have two children Susan and Clint.

Grahame’s father, Alfred Blowes, also attended All Saints’. He was a student of the Watson era from 1925 - 1927.

OBITUARY

DONALD JOSEPH LAWRENCE
(WATSON 1935-1940)

Don, born 10th July 1924, died 6th July 2008.

Don was the youngest son of John and Caroline Lawrence and the fourth to attend All Saints College. His four brothers all attended schools under the headmastership of L.G.H. Watson, Jim at Monaro Grammar School, Cooma and Jack (John, Jnr), Bill (William) and Robert (Bob) at ASC.

Don was 16 years old when he left school to join the RAAF in 1940. After basic training in Australia, and being too young to train as a pilot, he went to CANADA under the Empire Training Scheme and showing an aptitude for signalling became a wireless operator in Bomber Command with the Pathfinder force.

After the war Don returned to Barmedman and farming. He married in 1952 and he and wife Betty had three children, Anne, Brian and John. Don will be remembered for his drive and ability to enthuse people to achieve results. He always strove to be the best, one early ambition being to have the best draught horses in the district in his stables and the best crops. He will also be remembered for his support of the wider family, giving encouragement to his many nieces and nephews. Don was active in the local community and RSL branch and as a fitting tribute a simple flypast during the funeral service added to the poignancy of the moment.

Don will be remembered as one who played the game and played it fair, he played with all his might! He has now been called to play the game on another field in another place.

Geoff Crossley (Evans 1955-1960)
FORMER Bathurst resident Dr Richard Hawker is one man actively making a difference in the world while also bringing hope and inspiration to the people in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Hawker is part of a team involved in Operation Open Heart (OOH), which sends Australian doctors to Papua New Guinea (PNG) to perform major surgeries.

Since its inception in 1993, OOH has saved 573 lives in Papua New Guinea, 70 percent of which have been children under the age of 12.

On average 50 Papua New Guineans, who would otherwise have no access to treatment, receive life-changing and saving open or closed heart surgery each visit through this program.

Prior to this program, an average of just two patients a year in PNG were funded to travel abroad to receive heart surgery.

Born in Bathurst, Dr Hawker went to All Saints College before studying medicine at Sydney University.

Dr Hawker has since worked all over the world and said this work in PNG has been very tiring, but incredibly rewarding.

“My job is to go over just before the surgeons do to select patients who are best suitable for the surgery,” he said.

“It’s frantic work and very intensive for people who go there and work so hard. “What they achieved is just so amazing with the massive amount of patients they help.”

What has become known as The ‘Heart Team’ has visited PNG annually since 1993 with the exception of 1997. The knowledge and skills transfer of this program has been so great that the program is now largely being run by locals.

“This has allowed an even greater skills transfer to local Papua New Guinean medical staff.

“The work the volunteers put in not only saves lives but there is also an element of training that they are involved in,” Dr Hawker said.

“Each year we go back the number of patients selected for surgery is up.”

This year the Tertiary Health Services Project will merge with another program to enhance medical education and training in PNG.

In addition, it will support the broader health sector work-force through training of all health workers both at undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as through specialised clinical services.

However, besides the obvious health benefits delivered by the OOH, Dr Hawker said there had also been a positive change in the way the team has been accepted into the community.

“The whole attitude of the people in PNG has also changed,” he said.

“When we first started going the people were very reserved but as time has gone on they have come out of their shells more and now they all join in to help.”

On Friday, 14th March, the All Saints’ College community gathered to farewell our Head of College, Ms Jenny Williams. It was lovely to see such a diverse gathering of people from right across our school family: teachers (past and present), support staff, parents - both day and boarding, students, Council and other Committee members, and even some ex-parents and students who have maintained a close association with Jenny and All Saints’ College.

Bishop Richard Hurford OAM presided at the official part of the evening, thanking Jenny for her service and acknowledging her many achievements on behalf of the gathering and the College in general. Presentations from Anne Clifton (President of the P&F) and Russell Symonds (President of the Boarding P&F) followed.

Thank you to all who were able to attend. Thanks also to Mark Sutton and the staff at The Carrington who provided a wonderful setting and fabulous service throughout the cocktail evening. It was a fitting farewell for Jenny who leaves with our sincerest best wishes for a successful and rewarding time at the Samuel Marsden College in Wellington, New Zealand.

Mrs Michele Thornton
Dining Room Renovations

By now I hope that all connections to All Saints’ College have made a visit to the renovated dining room - now tastefully redecorated with a stunning result. A partnership between the All Saints’ P&F and the School Council supplied the funding and a small dedicated band of workers supplied the enthusiasm.

It is a tribute to all those who have worked tirelessly over recent years at the two major P&F fundraisers – the Festival of Art and the Spring Fair. The money raised is used on many smaller projects around the College, but every now and then we try to use it for something substantial that can be used by the whole school community. We couldn’t think of a better project than the central point of the College – the dining room.

This is now a wonderful nucleus to the whole school - a welcome and cheerful place to meet, greet and eat. It is planned to hire this centre out for conventions, weddings etc.

Special mention must be made of the core workers - Gavan Carter and his Maintenance team, David Blackshaw, Vicki Hart, Jenny Williams, Carol Goddard, Ros Rees, Brian Anderson, Bob Poole and Michele Thornton.

It is especially nice that this project, being such a large one, was seen to completion before our Head of College, Ms Jenny Williams left for her new position in New Zealand.

Mrs Kay Crawford

Official Opening of Refurbished Music Centre

After months of intensive work the Music Department was able to move into the refurbished Music Centre. The changes to the Centre were incredible and make a significant improvement to the learning environment for the College’s many, many talented musicians.

The All Saints’ College Foundation kindly donated funding for the refurbishment and it was only fitting that its Chairman, Mr John Sedgley, officially open the new Centre on Wednesday, 4th June. John spoke of the work of the Foundation, the varying use of the building over time and the exciting prospects it presents for both current and future musicians. During the opening, guests were treated to musical items by the Senior Concert Band (“Y.M.C.A.” and selections from “Mary Poppins”) and the Senior Choir (“Rise and Shine”).

The unveiling of a commemorative plaque followed and the Dean of Bathurst, the Very Reverend Andrew Sempell, carried out the blessing of the building. Mrs Robyn Crowley, Director of Music, then gave a guided tour of the building to invited guests.

It was an exciting day in the history of the College and thanks should go to everyone involved in making the opening such a memorable occasion.

Mr Bob Poole
“Mrs B - I’m hungry. Have you got any food?” A regular occurrence in the Blattman household over the past five years. On several occasions I have witnessed this for myself, knowing it to happen much more frequently. I have also witnessed the same occurrence demonstrated in a non-verbal way - students (who should remain nameless, but it could be any one of the Marsden girls) walking in and opening the fridge so as not to interrupt the conversation that was taking place between Bron and myself. Very polite of them really!

The Blattmans not only made sure there was plenty to eat, but provided help for the girls in any area that they could. Help with organisation, prep, leave, etc. were all part of the norm in the Blattman household. House outings, shopping or camping trips, in-house meals, you name it, nothing was out of the ordinary. Bron and Gerard and the kids opened up their home to the students completely unselfishly. They did this not only with their own house, but many of the boys found themselves heading towards the Blattmans’ when they were feeling a little undernourished or just in need of a chat.

Bronwyn (and her family) joined the boarding community at All Saints’ at the beginning of 2003 as the assistant in Lyon House. She did such a good job that in 2005 she was asked to take over the running of Marsden House. In recent years I had to work closely with Bronwyn with the implementation of Senior Houses. Through this and with all of the leave and other paperwork that I require in my position I have always found that Bron has been accurate and on time. Any exception to this was inevitably not Bron’s fault, it was probably because Gerard was busy stressing everyone out with his heart. In spite of family trauma and other issues Bron maintained her professionalism throughout her time in boarding and I appreciate the help and support that she and Gerard have given me over the years.

Not being satisfied with the older trouble makers of the school, Bron more recently found herself working with the opposite end chronologically of the school helping out in Transition. Personally I believe that this is where one truly deserves a medal or to be certified. I know that Bron has been greatly appreciated by the kids in Transition because they told me so.

In every area where the Blattmans have been involved in the College, be that boarding, Transition, P&F, or as parents, they have applied themselves with the best interest of the students at heart and their efforts will be missed. However, we do wish them well in Tarden, which is near Geraldton.....which is near Perth.....which is somewhere near Margaret River (I think??). In other words they are going to somewhere near nowhere.

Unselfishly they are going to work with boarders in a school with a significant indigenous population in an isolated area which has a landscape which makes Bathurst look lush even at its driest times. I hope you enjoy the challenges ahead of you and wish you and your family all the best for your new adventure.

Ian Jones

Valete - Bronwyn Blattman

Valete - Marty Robson

Martin (Marty) joined the staff of All Saints’ College in September 2003. As an ex-student he brought with him an excellent insight as to the needs of the College from the students’ perspective. In the first few months he worked with the Information Technology Committee to analyse our resources and then helped to develop a plan, which we now see brought to fruition. Marty has been in great demand from all staff and students constantly and he has worked hard to balance everyone’s needs. Due to his work, we can easily say that our network and hardware are far superior to many other larger Sydney schools.

Marty’s love of cars has been evident through his care of the black Bema. His quiet humour has been appreciated by many as has his enthusiasm for technology.

Marty will be greatly missed and we wish both him and Danielle well as they begin the next phase of their lives in Sydney.

Jenny Williams
Welcome to our new Head of College

Peter Miller knew he wanted to teach ever since he was about 16 and taught some younger children how to read maps.

“It was a teaching activity in school to cadets and ever since then I knew I wanted to do it,” the new Head of College at All Saints’ said.

“I did my Bachelor of Education at Sydney University and I’ve been committed to education ever since.”

Mr Miller moved to Bathurst with his wife and three children in July to tackle the top job at All Saints’ College and so far, they have loved it.

“I think it [Bathurst] is great. The people have made us feel very welcome. There’s a great sense of community and we love that,” he said.

“Bathurst has got a country town feel but it’s quite outward looking and I think that’s because of the university and ‘tree changers’.”

Being the Head of College involves running the school, Mr Miller said. His job is not just a teaching role, but includes financial, administration, child protection and health and safety responsibilities too.

“I’m looking forward to being part of a school that has a wonderful tradition and has a wonderful sense of the future as well. The school is not just confined by the past and it’s an exciting place to be,” he said.

“I like the fact it’s closely in line with the Cathedral as well which is important to me.”

Mr Miller has a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education which he completed in Nottingham in the United Kingdom. He is currently doing a Doctorate of Education through the University of New England, looking at understanding development and maintaining quality in learning environments.

“It’s really split into two parts - boys’ views of masculinity and investigating peer relationships,” he said.

“The experience students have at school shape their development and their views.”

Mr Miller said he believed teaching was all about the kids.

“Every kid has a future and a hope and that’s what I love,” he said.

“Just seeing them grow up is fun. When dealing with kids there are no ordinary moments and as a teacher you’ve got to remember that.”

Having also taught at Barker College and Shore School in Sydney, Mr Miller said he was looking forward to his time at All Saints’ College.

“We’ve been made to feel really welcome.

“There’s a great cross section of staff and the place runs on a passion for the future of the children,” he said.

On 3 September I became aware of police inquiries concerning a former (unnamed) All Saints’ College teacher and an alleged incident in 1973. This was via a police media release and following media inquiries received by me at school that afternoon. It is now my understanding that in 2007 Ms Jenny Williams, Head of College at that time, assisted police in their inquiries regarding this allegation.

It is important to indicate that this incident is alleged to have taken place 35 years ago. It is my firm belief that there are now internal and external procedures in place that serve to screen all people working with our students and protect them from incidents like the allegation reported in yesterday’s media.

All Saints’ College is a school with, and thoroughly deserves, a fine reputation. This reputation is founded on excellent pastoral care, a wonderful school community of staff, students, parents and ex-students as well as a long-standing record of providing its students with excellent educational opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.

The All Saints’ College community is obviously shaken by these allegations and we all look forward to their resolution in the near future. Allegations of this sort are very serious and deeply disturbing for everyone involved. It is my intention to continue to fully co-operate with any police inquiries.

Yours sincerely

Peter Miller, Head of College
THE brave survivor of the Drayton’s Family Winery blast is gradually putting his life back together after the Hunter Valley tragedy that killed his mentor, Trevor Drayton, and a colleague, Edgar Orgo.

In his first interview since the accident, William Rikard-Bell has also revealed how he said goodbye to Mr Drayton during an emotional return to the Hunter Valley and his plans to marry his fiancee, Kimberley Booker.

“I’ve got so much to live for. I’m so pleased to be alive, I’ve got a life and I’ve got a wedding to plan,” Mr Rikard-Bell said last week.

The 27-year-old assistant winemaker survived the January 17 explosion by running 100m, jumping over a barbed-wire fence and throwing himself into a dam, where he was found by ambulance officers.

Doctors have been surprised by the excellent progress made by Mr Rikard-Bell, who suffered burns to 65 per cent of his body.

He was discharged from Sydney’s Concord Hospital on Good Friday after two months and four days.

Mr Rikard-Bell underwent five high-risk operations to replace burnt skin on his arms, legs, thighs and back, and had to be taught how to walk again during painful daily physiotherapy sessions.

But the love and support of Ms Booker and his family had helped him cope emotionally, he said.

Mr Rikard-Bell said WorkCover and coronial inquiries prevented him talking about the explosion, but admitted its impact had left him more “highly strung”.

“If I hear a loud bang, I’ll jump. If I drop something on the floor, sometimes I’ll just burst into tears,” he said.

The couple had celebrated their engagement three weeks before the blast ripped through the winery.

Mr Rikard-Bell had met Ms Booker, a 27-year-old veterinary surgeon, while the couple was at Sydney University and had gone to great lengths to choose the perfect engagement ring.

On the day of the explosion, Ms Booker received a frantic phone call from her younger brother telling her to go to Drayton’s. She arrived at the vineyard just as the emergency helicopter was leaving.

Ms Booker did not get the chance to talk to Mr Rikard-Bell until he woke from an induced coma six days later. She then took a month off work to stay at his bedside.

Ms Booker now spends three days a week at work in Singleton, where she and Mr Rikard-Bell have a house, and the rest of the week with him in Sydney.

“It’s a bit hard trying to do both, but you have to maintain sanity,” she said.

“As hard as it is, we know we will get through it.”

Mr Rikard-Bell will stay close to burns specialists in Sydney, but hopes to return to Singleton after a nurse and a physiotherapist have been trained to treat his injuries.

He wears a neck-to-ankle burns suit - which he jokingly calls his Superman suit - and the dressings on his wounds must be changed every second day.

Doctors say he has the potential to make a full recovery, and he hopes to one day return to winemaking.

Recently, Mr Rikard-Bell went back to the Hunter Valley for the first time since the explosion to look at reception venues for the couple’s wedding next April and to visit Mr Drayton’s grave.

He said Mr Drayton was the reason he had spent the past two years working for Drayton’s, and the vigneron had taken him “under his wing” and introduced him to influential people in the industry.

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Honour Board for Music Captains

All Saints’ College Music Department is looking at having an Honour Board put in the refurbished Music Centre with the names of Music Captains since going co-ed.

If any Old Bathurstians know if the details of previous Music Captains are correct in the table below or if you can add to the list please contact Robyn Crowley or email r.crowley@saints.nsw.edu.au

Music Captains

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<tr>
<td>David Sully</td>
<td>Mary-Ann Boyd</td>
<td>Richard Starr?</td>
<td>Terumi Narushima</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Cunningham</td>
<td>Ann Reekie</td>
<td>Anthony Clydesdale?</td>
<td>Philip Matthews/ Teresa Selby?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradley Smith</td>
<td>Glenn Johnstone</td>
<td>Jason Buckley</td>
<td>Chris Allen/ Susan Manwarring</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Reekie</td>
<td>Lynne Johnstone</td>
<td>Jane Dillon?</td>
<td>Helene Stamatopoulos</td>
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OBU Contact Details

Could all OBU members please complete the form below and return to the address below. If you know of OBU members who have not been receiving their OBU VIM or reunion information please have them contact the OBU.

The Secretary OBU  
Locked Bag 9  
Bathurst NSW 2795  
Fax to (02) 6332 2236  
email – obu@saints.nsw.edu.au

Name:__________________________________________

Maiden Name:________________________________

Date of Birth:________________________________ 

Address:_______________________________________

_____________________________________________

Home Phone:__________________________________

Work Phone:__________________________________

Fax number:__________________________________

Mobile:_______________________________________

E-mail Address:________________________________

Student of ASC or Marsden School:___________

Year and level commenced ASC or Marsden:____

Year and level completed ASC or Marsden:_______

Married:____________________________________

Children:___________________________________

Career achievements:________________________

Help to update OBU Database  
The OBU along with the school are trying to update the OBU database. If you have moved or changed your personal details in any way please fill out & return the OBU Contact form to:

Rachel McMahon  
OBU Updates  
Locked Bag 9, Bathurst NSW 2795  
Fax to (02) 6332 2236  
E-mail – obu@saints.nsw.edu.au