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# ROSMINI NEWS

THE ROSMINI OLD BOYS' NEWSLETTER

## ITALY TRIP

Rosmini College's Assistant Principal, Nixon Cooper (B.A. Dip. Ed) (1971 – 1977) represented the school at the International Conference, *Rosmini: A Prophet for Today*, held on 27<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Northern Italy's Sacro Monte Calvario. Nixon says, "It was immensely rewarding to travel to Italy and meet representatives of all the International Rosminian Schools." These included schools from England, Wales, Ireland, Tanzania, India and from other parts of Italy.



He describes the venue as, "the Rosminian motherhouse... the wonderful Monte Calvario monastery at Domodossola. The monastery is a very beautiful and spiritual place and dates from 1657." Nixon says the conference looked at, "Rosmini's educational philosophy and its continued relevance today in Rosminian Schools. Of particular interest was the work being carried out by dedicated Rosminians in developing countries, especially Tanzania." He concludes, "I would strongly encourage any Old Boys travelling in Northern Italy to visit Monte Calvario. Also worth a visit are the two Rosminian Colleges in Italy, Collegio Mellerio at Domodossola and Collegio Rosmini at the pretty resort town of Stresa."



The 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St John's Primary School, Mairangi Bay will take place on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This is a significant event for the school because it takes place after the recent

canonisation of St. Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop was the founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and she devoted much of her life to education – particularly that of the poor. It was The Sisters of Saint Joseph who opened St John's in 1961. There is a variety of events planned for the March celebrations, including the unveiling of a sculpture by Bishop Patrick Dunn depicting Mary, the infant Jesus and John the Baptist (after whom the school is named). This sculpture is being carved by local artist and iconographer Michael Pervan whose son, Tim, is a Rosmini Old Boy and whose other son, Daniel, is currently attending the College. For more details about the jubilee visit:

[www.stjohnsjubilee.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsjubilee.org.nz)

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

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I have often mentioned that I like writing for Old Boys, mainly because I don't feel so restrained, but times have definitely changed. My latest epistle from the Ministry was titled, "*Recent Reports of Choking*" and I quote:

*"The media are currently running stories about recent sudden deaths in South Auckland and linking these to choking games, which are known by a range of names, including hangman. It is unhelpful to speculate upon the cause of these deaths because the reasons behind sudden death in youth are complex."*

There is a lot more, but I am sure you have the picture. Once upon a time, a 'choker' in school was a large lolly. 'Risk' in the old days was a ride in the van with Brother Tedesco or Brother Sormany. Mind you, the writer could have run over late-comers to school in his Morris Oxford!

On to the present – we have had a great year for sport – soccer, rugby, hockey and basketball have all done very well. Actually, for a small school, – not very well, outstanding! The cricket team is off to Brisbane in the holidays and I am told that the future for cricket looks very promising. Our next project is a Sports Pavilion, so if anyone wins Lotto don't forget us.

What about The Black Caps? I always wondered about 'player power' - more like 'player plague'. They don't have to win everything, but they need to lose in a convincing manner.

Martin Snedden was our guest speaker at Senior Prize Giving last month and he was inspirational. His theme was 'hope' and he impressed on the boys that learning and progress don't stop when they leave school, but carry on throughout life. He pointed out that his school report (and he has kept it) was almost entirely 'D' for effort. It is fair to say that he has done very well since, being responsible for some of the biggest projects New Zealand has undertaken. He also told the boys how important his faith was to him.

I am sure some of you saw the lead story in the Herald recently, 'Schoolboy Heroes,' where three Rosmini boys, Oliver Tyack, Miles Broderick and Joseph Coddington went to the aid of the injured and the dying following a bus accident. These young men were supremely brave and their quotes were extremely mature for Year 10 boys. *"I would rather have to cope with a couple of sleepless nights than have not done anything to help"* and *"I didn't think about anything, it just felt like the right thing. Everyone knew what was happening and what needed to be done"* and *"I just knew I had to get everyone away from there, to get the young kids out."* If you have not read the article, it is worth getting – the boys were exceptional and it gave Rosmini great copy.

Peter Marshall, one of Rosmini's finest Old Boys, is the new Commissioner of Police. I taught Peter in Miramar and Rosmini, so I might send him my speeding fines. Can you believe that I got booked recently, both going to Mass and returning from Mass – some cops have no conscience!

Anyway, a happy and peaceful Christmas to all of you, and although it has been a tough year for New Zealand, especially for those in the South Island, we have to keep the faith.

God Bless

**Tom Gerrard**



## OLD BOY ARTIST

Matt Payne (1993-1999) has been a full time artist for a year and a half. He has a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation (AUT) and a Diploma of Fine Arts (Whitecliffe). Matt describes his art as, "an expression of my love for my home. It is influenced by the beaches and the farmland and the bush of New Zealand. I love spending time outdoors and my paintings are an extension of that. I attempt to capture the feeling of the place in my painting." He was the Artist in Residence at Carmel College's 2010 Art Fusions held on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August, which involved, "painting on-site and interacting with the public, who in this case were often people I knew through my connections with Rosmini and Carmel. It was a great opportunity to put myself out into my own community and have people realise I am an artist. It was a great experience. It wasn't easy but was rewarding talking to people about my work and interacting with people who were genuinely interested in the process and the end result. The highlight of the show for me was meeting the other artists, some of them whose art I had seen in a number of other places and it was nice to finally meet them." Recalling his time at Rosmini College, Matt says, "I remember clearly spending my lunchtimes playing league/touch or cricket on the top field at lunch-time and missed that once I left school. I have great memories of the Art Rooms at Rosmini. It was always my favourite period, even though I spent most of my Rosmini career concentrating on waterpolo and not school work. I have played waterpolo since I was 10 years old at Rosmini and went on to represent North Harbour and New Zealand. I have a number of interests; surfing, books, music, movies, arts. I have a passion for all sports, especially cricket, rugby league and waterpolo." Matt currently has an exhibition up at Matakana from 19th November until 12th December.



*Omaha walkway by Matt Payne*

## DRAMA AT ROSMINI

On Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, Rosmini College's Year 12 Drama class performed *'Lord of the Flies'* in the Tindall Auditorium, in front of a paying audience. Rosmini's Head of Drama, Mr Andy Saker, who also directed the play, says, "It was great to see the boys rise to the challenge and work together to deliver a hugely impressive performance." The boys rehearsed for six weeks and Andy says, at first, the students saw the project as too difficult, but gradually they grew in confidence and they eventually realised they were going to, "nail the play." So much so that there were four Excellences and a number of Merits awarded to various members of the cast. The Year 11 Drama students provided the technical support for the play. Daniel Bonner (16) of Torbay played Ralph and he says he liked his character, "because he isn't a simple, straightforward person. He shows different levels and emotions." Daniel adds Ralph is, "loyal to his beliefs" and he wanted the audience to, "feel sorry for him as everyone starts to turn on him." Riley Beare (17) of Glenfield played Jack whom he described as "evil" and a "dictator" – basically "a nasty dude." He says he really enjoyed developing the character and that he wanted the audience to see how his character symbolises the corruption inherent in some governments. The boys all wish to thank Mr Saker and Rob Owens for, "fine-tuning their acting." Andy Saker is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. As well as teaching Drama at Rosmini, Andy is also the Artistic Director of the Devonport Theatre Company. This latter position has allowed him to begin a very successful Intern Programme in which Rosmini students are given the opportunity to do semi-professional theatre and work with professional actors. Rosmini College's Head Boy, Chris Waterman (17) of Albany and Year 12 students, Sam Westley (16) of Greenhithe and Alex de Vries (16) of Glenfield were the Stage Managers for the Takapuna Pumphouse's recent production of *'Pear Shaped'*. *'Pear Shaped'* marked Saker's debut as a writer and it was his second theatre collaboration with Robert Owens and Jed Town. He described the play as, "a vignette about an ordinary bloke in Takapuna" which "holds a mirror up to the society I grew up in." Year 10 students, Simon Woodard (14) of Mairangi Bay and Ryan Westley (14) of Greenhithe, were in charge of the lighting and sound. Chris described the play as, "hard-work but exciting. The whole experience was an Eye-opener into professional theatre." He adds that it was interesting to see how much time and effort goes into technical design and set construction. *'Pear Shaped'* was favourably reviewed by the *New Zealand Herald*.



**Congratulations to the following Old Boys...**

**Chris Rahardja** won a gold medal in kata (forms) and a silver in the under-21 kata at the Oceania Karate Championships in Tahiti. Chris has now become the first New Zealander to take gold in kata (forms) at the last four Oceania championships. Chris's younger brother, Rosmini College Year 8 student, Richard, won gold in the children's individual kata, gold in the team kata and gold in the children's under 45kg kumite (sparring).

Former Rosmini College Head Boy (2005), **Sam Rosser** won two bronze medals at the North Island Judo Championships held on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September at Tauranga. Sam was selected to represent New Zealand at November's Judo World Cup in Samoa.

**Tim Mullins** was selected to play for the New Zealand Marist Colts.

**Richard Haddon** was selected to play for the New Zealand Rugby Union Under 20 Team.

**Gareth Anscombe** was selected to play first five-eight for the Auckland Rugby Team.

The following received Massey University Blues Sports Awards:

**Adrian Blincoe** (Athletics)

**Jason Donnelly** (Cricket)

**Sam Ward** (Rugby Union)



On the 1<sup>st</sup> October, Rosmini Old Boy, **Dan Brady** married Nicki Thomas at the Winter Gardens in the Auckland Domain with the reception held afterwards at Okahu Bay. Rosmini Old Boy, Richard Retimana was best man and Louise Kirkham (nee Diver) was the bridesmaid.



**2010 Year 7 Fathers and Sons' Breakfast**

**Back row** (from left to right): Gerard Gunnell, Jacob Gunnell, Sam Hirst (obscured), Graeme Hirst.

**Middle row** (from left to right): Timothy Ganley, Joseph Ganley, Michael Lalor, David Lalor, Emmett Mackle, Alex Mackle.

**First row** (from left to right): Sean Ford, Matthew Ford, Andrew Ridley, Jacob Ridley, Scott Gulik, Ben Gulik.



On the 9<sup>th</sup> October, Rosmini teacher, Verity-Jane Snedden, married Rosmini Old Boy, **Stefan Boric**, at St Michaels, Remuera with the reception held afterwards at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron. In the picture from left to right – Old Boys: Anthony Boric, Franco Boric, Callum Ryan, Scott Freeman, Stefan Boric, Verity-Jane Snedden, Emmalene Miller, Olivia Sodo, Jessica Sodo and Monique O'Malley. The cute attendants standing at in the front of the picture are: Bailey Molloy, Claudia Russell, Jasmine D'Souza and Ella Russell.

