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ROSMINI COLLEGE

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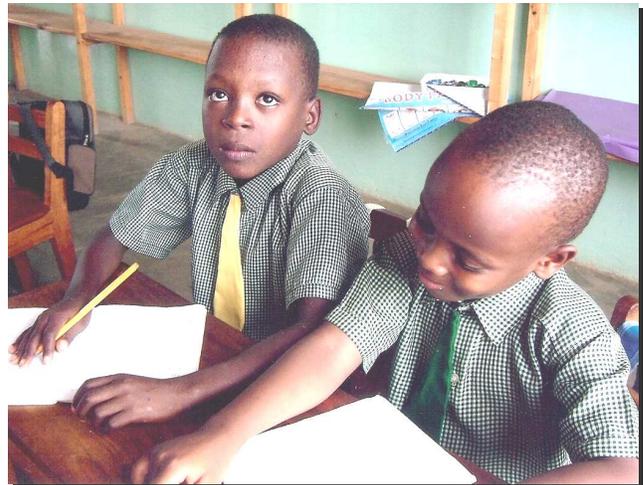
ROSMINI NEWS

THE ROSMINI OLD BOYS' NEWSLETTER

A ROSMINIAN SCHOOL

In 2007, Shayne Doyle, a member of Rosmini College's Board of Trustees, met Sister Gwynneth at a Rosminian conference in Monte Calvario, Italy. Sister Gwynneth is the Head Teacher at Holy Family Pre-Primary and Primary in Tanga, Tanzania. Her school has no government funding and it relies on donations to build up the school which, at present, has a very basic level of equipment and facilities. Many of the children have health problems, including T.B, Aids and hearing difficulties. On top of this it is dangerous just getting to school: several children were run over on the way to school last year! Consequently this situation challenges us to reflect on Rosmini College's school motto, 'Charity fulfils the law' and how we could live it in a deeper way by assisting this 'sister' school in Africa. This year Rosmini College has supported a number of worthwhile organisations and causes – Caritas, World Vision, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, to name but a few. However, from this year onwards, we would like to ask the community to take on a new and exciting challenge – patronage of Tanzania's Holy Family Pre-Primary and Primary. Over the past decade our school community, including Old Boys and other generous benefactors, has spent over \$10 million to upgrade our school facilities. Would it be worth challenging our Rosminian community to spend just 1% of that amount in goods and services to look after one of our own schools in Africa over the next decade? One example of the basic needs we can help the school with is its water supply problem. The school has four underground tanks which service the needs of well over 400 students and staff and they must use a foot pump to get the water from the tank to the kitchen. If we were to provide the school with a solar powered pump, it would make the harvesting of water so much easier. The school is at present building a new library and needs all sorts of books to cater for the students who are between the ages of 3 and 15. No doubt there are many other things they need, particularly money to buy medicines, food and uniforms. At present we are investigating ways of transporting goods securely from NZ to Tanga. Is there anyone in our Rosminian community who would be able to help us to ship goods there relatively cheaply?

Once we have the transport facility in place then we can start gathering goods, like books, to furnish their new school library. If you can help in any way, please email either Shayne Doyle (shayne.doyle@xtra.co.nz) or Steve Mills (DRS, Rosmini College – s.mills@rosmini.school.nz).



Francis, a student of the school, on the left - HIV pos and he has TB.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Rosmini students and Old Boys who were nominated for a 2009 Massey University Harbour Sport Excellence Award:

Anthony Boric and Rudi Wulf (1994-2001) were nominated for Sportsman of the Year for Rugby Union. Year 13 Sports Captains – Chris Rahardja (Karate) and Gareth Anscombe (Rugby Union) were nominated for Junior Sportsman of the Year. Chris Rahardja was then selected as a finalist. The Rosmini College 1st XV Rugby Team were nominated as Junior Team of the Year.

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Congratulations to Rowan McCormick (1982-1988) who has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Social Anthropology from Massey University. He also has a Master of Arts with Distinction in Social Anthropology.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Recently I attended two funerals where there were many Old Boys whose presence must have been a great consolation to the families. One funeral was for Joseph Michael O'Connell (Mick) whose sons attended Rosmini; Bernard was Head Boy and Mark taught here. The O'Connells have had a lot to do with Rosmini College and we extend our sympathy to the family.

A day later we farewelled Dr Neil Murray (87) who was involved with the early Rosmini community. One of his sons, Neil, was in one of my classes, managed to overcome that obstacle and became a much respected solicitor with Armstrong Murray. Neil's sons also went to Rosmini and Neil himself has spent a decade coaching Rosmini Cricket at the highest level. Again, we extend our sympathy to the family.

In between reading the new curriculum and National Standards, I found time to peruse the Old Boys response to Paul Greenslade's emails and found them very interesting. It was great to read about the exciting careers of that class.

Many Old Boys often ask me about the school today, and in response to that I will put in some of the highlights of 2009. These are always a personal selection and no doubt I will have omitted some highlights that would have appealed to others. Nevertheless here are some of my highlights from the year.

- The opening and blessing of the new Gym and the generosity of parents and Old Boys who contributed to the project so generously. I was delighted to see so many Rosmini supporters of past years at the opening and the surprise and honour of having this marvellous facility named after me was extremely special.
- The 1st XV winning the North Harbour Championship, defeating Massey in the hard-fought final.
- The overall success of the Rugby teams, with two Championship wins (1st XV and 6th Grade) plus four other teams making their various finals.
- The growth of Hockey in the school, with 7 teams in the school and the 1st XI winning the North Harbour Division.
- The continued success of the 1st XI Cricket team who are winning some great games against traditionally strong schools. Also the success of the Year 7 & 8 Cricket Team who made the final of the Auckland-wide Milo Cup.
- Badminton – quiet achievers. Senior A and Senior C teams won their North Harbour Secondary Schools Championships.
- The production of *Twelve Angry Men* – a very professional performance.
- The splendid Senior Prize Giving evening, with excellent addresses from our Chairman, Mike Taylor, and Head Boys, James Doyle and Peter Yoo and the outstanding solo singing performance from Mario Saseve.
- The outstanding sporting success of Gareth Anscombe and James Doyle in a variety of codes.
- The brilliant success of the Year 13 boys who netted a fine 'catch' of scholarships.
- The continued influence of Old Boys in the college, both on the Board and on the teaching staff.
- The outstanding performances of Jonathan Lee and Sung Min Lee in the ICAS Mathematics Competition.
- Liam Winter securing a trip to Ireland as the prize for winning the Irish Essay Competition and then going on to being named as our Dux for 2009. His essay is a credit to him and a joy to read.
- The continued support of the school by our Proprietor, Bishop Pat Dunn.
- The giant strides we have made in improving our boys literacy and numeracy, largely due to the work of two outstanding HODs, Brian Strang and Peter Newall.

Once again, a sincere thank you to those Old Boys who contributed to the Gymnasium Appeal.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Tom Gerrard
Principal



Alex Spence (1990-1996) has been a journalist at *The Times* for more than four years. He has a postgraduate journalism diploma from AUT. He describes the job as "intense with long hours," but he adds, "I'm extremely lucky to be there." The best things about his job are, "learning about so many different things, the access you get to interesting and important people who'd never talk to you otherwise, and finding out things that people don't want you to know before other people know them." Reflecting on his time at Rosmini College Alex says, "I much prefer adulthood to school but," he hastens to add, "that wasn't the fault of Rosmini or the teachers." He describes himself as a bit of a moody and difficult student and says he's, "still grumpy now but probably a bit less intense. I'd like to think, looking back, that the teachers didn't think I was entirely ungrateful. I have huge respect for the job they did. There were lots of people that had a lasting influence, but I have particularly fond and enduring memories of Ray Roberts and Tony Hutson. I think Tom Gerrard is extraordinary. The loyalty and commitment he's shown to the school and to his pupils over the years is nothing short of heroic. I once rang him up years after leaving, wondering if he'd remember who I was; he came on the line and quickly rattled off a list of everything I'd done since university. That blew me away – but says everything about the man." Alex still occasionally comes across Rosmini boys in the unlikeliest places. He has been in London for five years. He has not lived anywhere else in Europe but he enjoys travelling and he has been to a lot of places in Europe. Alex says he has not really analysed what he enjoys about London or the advantages and disadvantages of living there. He says London feels like home. "It just feels normal, actually, and has since the day I got here. If I stopped to think, I suppose what I like is: the proximity to Europe, the history, the scale, the sense of connection to the world, the different cultures, the newspapers, the restaurants, the parks, the markets, chunky winter clothes, English ale... I could go on...An occupational and social hazard of life in London is the unhealthy amount of time spent in the pub. More than all the above, football. A couple of years after moving here I was lucky enough to secure a season ticket for Arsenal. The highlight of my week is my Wednesday night five-a-side game. The fact that I can pay less than ten quid to go and watch one of the whiny depresso bands that I can listen to at a dingy pub on just about any given night of the week, when they'd seldom, if ever, end up playing in Auckland. Lots of little gripes that annoy me but that's the same everywhere. There are a lot of things I miss about New Zealand aside from the obvious (family and old friends). What struck me most when I went back was the light and the spaciousness. As much as anything I miss seeing stars at night."



OLD BOYS BASKETBALL

Rosmini College Old Boy and current Rosmini College Head of Classics, Mr Ambrose Samuels (1990-1996) again organised the annual game between Rosmini Senior A and a team of ex-Rosmini basketball players. The game took place in the Tom Gerrard Gymnasium on Thursday, 19th November. The Rosmini College Senior A team was captained by Jordan Florian and Jan Latosa. The Old Boys team was again captained by Romeo Manlangit and included such players as Gerard and Campbell Ross, Ben Bergin, Chris Ettiene, Aaron Metcalf, Aidan Mills, Chris Featonby and Dominic Sy. The final score was 118-68 and the victorious Old Boys team was awarded the Ryan Bartlett Cup. This is a memorial cup for Old Boy and basketball player Ryan Bartlett who passed away tragically a few years ago. Ambrose says, "It was a great game and a good chance to catch up with some of the players who I coached over the last couple of years. All of the boys played the game in high spirits and with enthusiasm and then had a good meal and mingle afterwards."

FATHER WATSON

Father Terry Watson has recently been in contact. He sends his kindest regards and asks to be remembered to, "the longest serving [secondary school] headmaster in NZ, whom I remember coming on the staff and sharing a staffroom that was no bigger than a kitchen!" He goes on, "The school has changed so much since I first arrived in 1963 and thought the main building at the time was a glorified garden shed!! It was the time of the annual fair (organised by Bro. John Tedesco) and I was greeted by a haka by the boys of Hato Petera, or St. Peter's Maori as it was then." Father Watson says since his return to the United Kingdom he has, "been totally immersed in the translation and diffusion throughout the English-speaking world of the philosophical works of Rosmini. It is a demanding job but very fulfilling because of his tremendous insights into things human and divine. The school should be proud to bear his name."

Last year Alex Leighton (1991-1997) and his co-creators at *Mukpuddy Animation* were asked by Nickelodeon International to make a cartoon for a project they called *Open Mic*. The star of their cartoon is a Secret Agent Lemur by the name of Dirk Banzai...You can check it out for yourselves: <http://mukpuddy.blogspot.com/2009/10/hes-not-cat.html>

ONE TO WATCH

Luis Cachero (2001-2007) came third on his first attempt at this year's Kartsport Auckland Club Championships (Club Class). The Club Championships were on the 2nd - 3rd May at The Pallet Company Raceway in Avondale. He is currently coming first overall, up to 11th November, on points with one race weekend remaining. Luis says, "I quite liked motor-racing ever since I discovered it here in New Zealand through books and computer games when I first arrived so I thought I'd give the real thing a go after I finished college before I jump into university study. It was just a matter of saving up to get my own race kart and summoning the courage to let quite a bit of those savings go. As a result I had too many part-time jobs especially during my time in Rosmini. I worked for the likes of McHugh's of Cheltenham, Duder's Pastry and Desserts, Watermark Restaurant in Devonport, McDonald's and The Warehouse. A lot to handle especially if you have a Graphics project due to Mr Hughes every now and then!" He describes the racing as enjoyable, challenging, insightful and rewarding although he adds it was, "quite intimidating when you first arrive and see everyone with all their gear - fully enclosed trailers, mini weather stations, company logos and general hustle and bustle of mechanics around their drivers - but you quickly get down to it especially once you're behind the wheel! You also realise very soon that motorsport is one of those things that needs a lot more than practising. Especially if you're running on a budget from part-time work savings! But at the end of the day it was quite rewarding to see all the effort I put in to maintenance, logistics physical training and general preparation culminate into a podium finish on my first attempt of the club championships. It would be excellent to carry on racing and move on up the motorsport ladder." Luis is planning on doing a degree in business at university with the aim of majoring in Marketing and Information Management, although he is also seriously "considering enrolling for some race driving tuition and applying for motorsport scholarships to fast-track my knowledge and direction in a possible career in motor racing." Reflecting on his time at Rosmini, Luis says he'd, "just like to say a resounding thank you to the school for the education and upbringing it has provided me with through good times and bad. Rosmini was my home away from home and I'm glad that my parents enrolled me there. The lessons I've learnt and qualities I've picked up from my seven years will undoubtedly serve me and every other attendee well in life." Some enduring memories of the school include, "Mr Liou's fishing adventures, Mr Roberts's judo wisdom or Mr Cooper's Formula 1 impressions. I think some of the most memorable moments during my time in Rosmini were the laughter (and shenanigans/high jinks) amidst the academic, sporting and social context of school life - particularly when a class has a practical lesson for that day. Whenever there's a science experiment, a trip to the library, computer labs, or the teacher leaves the room for a short trip or errand, there's always a couple of us getting into a little mischief. Looking back at it now it makes me think how many headaches that must have caused! Name a subject, teacher or staff member during my years of attendance and I'll try to recall a story worthy of a good laugh! It's also great how you can go back to the school for a visit and still feel right at home. The teachers and staff are still nice, friendly and helpful and there's still (and probably always will be) a few kids getting into trouble! I usually take a keen interest in the Rosmini Community. The new gymnasium is a welcome addition to the school and it's always great to know how the sports teams are doing particularly the rugby, soccer and basketball teams. For more information and to keep up to date with Luis and his racing, his contact details and websites are as follows:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Luis_Cachero Facebook: www.facebook.com/Louie.Schumii

Website: www.facebook.com/pages/Luis-Cachero-Motorsport/194012776045



Picture by: George Tjong

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The **Rosmini College Golf Tournament**, organised by the Rosmini College PTFA, took place on Thursday, 24th September despite a dire weather forecast. The players started to arrive from 12.30 onwards and there were 16 teams. Richard Leonard, a professional photographer, was stationed at Hole No 4 where he managed to take some great action shots of each player.

Go to www.richardleonardphotography.com and click on the link which says *Rosmini College Golf Tournament*. The weather held off until about 4 pm when there was the most incredible tropical downpour which resulted in only two drowned ducks (who shall remain nameless!) retiring to the Clubhouse bar - the rest soldiered on to the bitter end. Gary Whetton's team (with the help of young Sam Hoskins) were the overall winners on the day. Thanks to everyone's generosity and support a total of just over \$6000 was raised.

MUSICIAN DONATES DRUMS

Rosmini Old Boy Kevin Sheehan (1964-1967) donated a drum kit to the school on Thursday, 12th November "in the hope that someone else is inspired and reaches for the stars." Just before Kevin left Rosmini, at the age of 16, he started a band called 'Disraeli Gears' with fellow Old Boys - Antony Smith, Pete Maire and Emmett Sheehan. The band came third in Benny Levin's Auckland heats of the 1969 'Battle of the Bands.' After four years with the 'Disraeli Gears', Kevin joined the 'Spectre Show Band' who played a number of corporate gigs. They were also the house band for Radio Hauraki and they supported everyone from Ray Columbus to the 'Chicks'. After about three years with this band, Kevin was invited to join an English band called 'Rococo' who still hold the house attendance record at the Mon Desir Hotel. The band was here for six months and they held a huge concert for the Waikato Students Union at Hamilton's Claudeland's Showgrounds which drew over 5000 punters. Together with Gary Harvey from 'Rococo', Kevin went on to form the 'Overnight Blues Band' which then became 'Black and Blue' and eventually that became the 'Sonny Day Band'. This band held down a residency at Wakefield Street's Globe Hotel for approximately four years. After playing with various other bands, Kevin joined 'Riverhead Slide' with whom he played with for four years. Just before moving to Thames in the Coromandel, Kevin started singing with a 'jam' band in Devonport called the 'Torpedoes'. The 'Torpedoes' used to refer to Kevin as, "their secret weapon." The band consisted of Tama Renata, on guitar ('Once Were Warriors' soundtrack, Herbs), Max Hohepa, bass guitar ('Howard Morrison Band'), Brent Turner, keyboards and sax ('Moana and the Moahunters') and Richie Campbell, drums ('Ardijah'). A regular participant in the band on guitar and vocals and who was recommended by Kevin, was Temuera Morrison. After moving to Thames, Kevin reformed a version of 'The Overnight Blues Band' with various members of 'Riverhead Slide' and 'Black and Blue'. Lastly Kevin joined a country band called '43 Holes', which featured Craig Robertson, the only Kiwi to have won 'Starmaker' at Australia's Tamworth Country Music Festival. Kevin retired from the band in 2006 due to health problems associated with 30 years of diabetes. Although he says he has, "amused himself as the occasional vocal guest of 'Riverhead Slide'." Kevin concludes, "Music has been my life."