Dear Fellow Old Collegians,

You will read in this issue of “The Gym” of the recent passing of Br John Marks, after a long battle with cancer. Br Marks was CBC Headmaster from 1986 until the end of 1994. I am proud to say that as a teacher, and later as his Deputy, I came to know him well.

As a teacher, Br Marks was dedicated and inspiring. As a Headmaster, Br Marks was tireless. The lights in his office on the ground floor of what is now the Hurley Wing were often blazing well into the night all during the week, on weekends and during school holidays. He transformed the financial circumstances of the College, laying the foundation for the later transformation of the College property, which continues today in the redevelopment of the Junior School.

He was an outstanding mentor to me. He graciously shared his knowledge, skills and experience with me, preparing me for school administration. His passion for equity and justice in schools’ funding was a major aspect of his educational vision. He deeply valued the role of parents in the education of their children and played a major role in the development of inclusive and involved school boards in the province.

I will never forget the time we spent motoring from Perth to Bindoon, Geraldton and Tardun and then back to Aquinas. It was a priceless experience and deeply nurturing in the history and heritage of the Christian Brothers. Br Marks’s generosity of spirit and his friendship are deeply treasured. What little I ever achieved as a Principal is courtesy of his model of understated leadership and dedicated service.

On other matters, the Association held its Annual General Meeting in February and we are very pleased to welcome the College Archivist, Mrs Jacinta Weiss, to the Executive Committee of the Association, as the Principal’s Nominee. Jacinta replaces Shaun Clarke and I would like to place on record the immense gratitude of the committee with regard to Shaun’s outstanding work in recent years. He is an outstanding servant of the college and we are all very grateful for his commitment to CBC. Shaun was a key part of the success of the recent 20-year reunion of the class of 1990, which was very ably facilitated by John Salerno. Congratulations gentlemen; the reunion was an outstanding success.

Finally, as part of our work as a Committee in sponsoring as many opportunities for Old Collegians to get together and associate again with the school, there is a questionnaire regarding a possible luncheon gathering, for retired and elderly Old Collegians. If you’re interested, please fill out the form and return it to us, so that we can assess its suitability this year.

May God Bless you all.

Mr Viano Jaksa
President (1971)

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A NOTE FROM THE principal

Dear Old Collegians,

This edition of the Gym offers tribute and loving memory with the passing of former Headmaster (1986-1994) Br John Marks. I was humbled to attend his memorial service, mass and funeral in Perth recently. Members of his family and also the Christian Brothers spoke lovingly of Br John’s legacy and deep love for CBC and its community members. I invite you all to attend his South Australian Memorial Mass at St Ignatius Church Norwood on Monday 22nd March at 5.30pm.

It was my pleasure to attend the CBC Old Collegians AGM and congratulate Viano Jaksa and his committee for their re-election to office in 2010. At the meeting we discussed the possibility of inviting some of our newer members of the Association to join the committee. Viano would be pleased to hear from members wishing to join.

Clipsal Week was upon us and the College was busy with a range of student activities including Duke of Edinburgh Camps, Christian Service Learning, Senior Formal, a Year 6 Astronomy Evening and Reception through to Year 2 swimming classes! This is indeed a busy week. Due to the construction of the new Junior Campus this year we did not hold our annual Clipsal Fundraising event- possibly for the first time since Grand Prix days! I am however pleased to announce the Junior Campus project is on schedule and on budget. We have commenced concrete works on site and will continue to keep you informed on its progress.

I take this opportunity to welcome you to visit your College throughout the year and extend to you and your family every blessings of the risen Christ this Easter.

Mr Noel Mifsud
Principal
Br. John Marks
Headmaster 1986-1994

John Marks was born in Naracoorte South Australia on the 21st of March, 1935. His early education was at a succession of Convent schools in Millicent, Murray Bridge and Adelaide. He then attended the Brothers school at Ovingham for three years and Wakefield Street for one term. After three years at Port Augusta High School, the final three years of his education was spent at Rostrevor before joining the Christian Brothers.

Throughout his career Br Marks has studied at Melbourne, Flinders and Notre Dame Universities. He had taught at CBC St Kilda and Aquinas College before coming to Wakefield Street, after seven and half years at Rostrevor. After he finished his nine years at CBC he was selected to be on the Province Leadership team, and then spent seven years at Christian Brothers Agricultural School Tardun, working as Business Manager, counsellor and teacher and working with the Province Leadership Team.

Br Marks was a firm believer in the importance of both the family and the Catholic Church in the education of young people. He thought that in partnership together, they could equip young people to be active participants in the world’s communities. The realities of increasing numbers of lay teachers in schools led him to initiate religious education programs for staff funded by the Province. His understanding of the potential of technology drove CBC to become an early adapter of computers in education. Br. Marks was also responsible for extensions to the Junior School, building a second story in the Rice Wing, renovations to the Art/Tech centre and the building of two Special Education rooms as well as the West Lakes Boat Shed.

In 1990 the Christian Brothers Province instigated a move away from Advisory School Boards to Boards that had a greater management input into the running of the school. Br Marks oversaw this new management structure and working with the new Board, managed to purchase the land in Houlid Street that would form the base of the playing fields giving our students access to increased sporting facilities on site. He was responsible for a series of entrepreneurial planning and funding developments which enabled him to complete these projects as well as keeping fees low, all at a time when there was little government funding available for Catholic schools.

To ensure that he continued to have his finger ‘on the pulse’, Br Marks lead a number of external committees, including the S.A. Branch of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia, the Independent Schools Sports Association and he Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools Funding Sub-committee. He was also a member of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, the Recurrent Funding Committee and Capital Grants Allocations Committee (South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools) and numerous working parties including that of Gender and Equity (Catholic Education Office).

Mrs Jacinta Weiss
Archivist

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Memorial Mass
A memorial Mass for Br John Marks, CBC Headmaster from 1986-1994 will be held at
St Ignatius Church,
Queen St Norwood
on
Monday 22nd March
at 5.30pm.
Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Patrick Donovan

The College has learnt with sadness of the death of Patrick Donovan old scholar of CBC 1946-51. After graduating from CBC Patrick studied science at the University of Adelaide and had a long career in management of Chemical companies with roles in various Australian States. He was president of the NSW Chamber of Business in the late 1980’s and was later elected Honorary Life Governor of Australian Business limited, the successor organization to the Chamber.

Patrick served in the Army Reserve for over 27 years and saw operational service as a Captain in Vietnam attached to A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry. During his schooling days he attained the rank of Corporal in the College Cadets.

In 1989 Pat Donovan was awarded the Order of Australia (Member) for his services to manufacturing, business and community. He died on October 20th, 2009 in Sydney.

Mrs Jacinta Weiss
Archivist
Leadership Assembly

Recently the College inducted the SRC Leadership Team, comprising of the College Captain, Vice Captains and House Captains. Christian Brothers College has had a long tradition of student leadership. In 1944 the College reintroduced Prefects with the establishment of an Honours class for the first time since 1923. The Prefects at this time were identified by the gold trim they had on their hats (they did not have purple blazers at that time). The Prefects, from 1944 until 1972, were responsible for organising dances/surfaces and uniform checks. In fact, the Prefects at that time checked that students didn’t venture onto Rundle Street (now Rundle Mall), took their cap off their head as they walked past the Cathedral and made sure that students didn’t interact inappropriately with other schools, particularly the girls’ schools. In 1973, was the last year of Head Prefect at Christian Brothers College and the College moved to the Student Representative Council (SRC) structure. In 1974, the SRC was established which was made up of a group of students elected by their fellow students to represent all students in the school and they organise ways for students to participate in school life. The purpose of the SRC is to work democratically to represent the student body in school decision-making. The students work together, with help from staff members, to ensure that the culture of the College is maintained and that they are proud to wear the purple and white.

Each member of the Leadership Team was presented at the assembly with a “Leadership Blazer”, which was white with purple braid and embroidered on the top pocket their leadership position. (Good luck to their mothers in keeping them clean!) The “Leadership Blazer” is not a symbol of elitism, but a reminder to the students of their commitment to the role of leadership and the model of excellence they provide to Christian Brothers College, both within the school and the wider community in supporting our school culture.

Research has shown that the continued development of a school culture is dependent on maintaining elements of:
- Collegiality between students and staff
- High expectations of both the school and students
- Trust and self confidence as both a learner and teacher
- Support provided by teachers for students
- Appreciation and recognition of our achievements
- Caring and celebrating our successes
- Protection of those values that are foundational in our school
- Shared decision making
- Acknowledging our tradition, and
- Maintaining honest and open communication.

These elements are the challenges to our leadership teams, both staff and students to work collaboratively together, to form a community and culture that engages all students to strive for excellence and to be proud of the legacy that has been left to us from former students and staff.

Mr Shaun Clarke
Deputy Principal

COMMITTEE members

President
Viano Jaksa ........................................0448 440 125
Vice President and Assistant Treasurer
Paul Della ........................................0414 829 759
Treasurer
Michael Moran ..................................(08) 8276 9156
Secretary
Mark Roberts ..................................(08) 8462 1575
Membership Coordinator
Kevin Sheehy ..................................0401 998 089
School Liaison
Jacinta Weiss ..................................(08) 8400 4297
Committee
Alex Mabarrack ..............................0407 604 398
CBCOFCG Rep
Anthony Andolfatto .........................0418 824 727

Log on to www.cbc.sa.edu.au/ organisations5.htm to download the latest edition of The Gym or send an email publications@cbc.sa.edu.au with your contact details to subscribe to The Gym mailing list.

Br. John Becket Stephenson passed away in Sydney on January 30th, 2010. He taught at CBC in the 1940’s and 1950’s. The Christian Brothers Archives of NSW kindly sent us a collection of photographs Br Stephenson had kept from his time at Wakefield Street. They include images of school life and of the Brothers relaxing together, often at Victor Harbour. Br Stephenson must have valued these memories to have kept these photographs for over sixty years, taking them with him to his various postings around Australia and in Papua New Guinea.

We are very fortunate at CBC that we have an extensive photo collection from 1882 onwards that includes not only formal class shots but many relaxed and informative images of non academic activities. The images of camps, retreats, excursions and everyday life around the College help to round out our understanding of life at CBC in earlier times.

Mrs Jacinta Weiss
Archivist
Class of 1990 Reunion  On Saturday 23rd January eighty-eight past students and sixteen of their former teachers got together to hold a reunion, a number of old scholars having flown from interstate to be part of the event. The evening included a quiz of questions only the class of 1990 would be able to answer, slide shows, photos and a pre event tour of the College. Twenty years is not that long ago but the old scholars were amazed at the above ground sports field, Chapel, Archives and how green the campus now is.

Head of the River 2010

Christian Brothers College Water Sports Auxiliary warmly invites all parents and students to attend the upcoming Head of the River Rowing Regatta on Saturday March 27, 2010. This will be an opportunity to see our rowers in action! Please come and support our rowing crews.

Where: A.M. Ramsay Rowing Course, West Lakes
Cost: $15 per person including shaslicks and salad, plus a choice of a soft drink or a glass of red or white wine or Champagne.

Please make payments at the CBC Finance Office or phone Mrs Franca Laub on 0409 094 043 for further information.

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