Dear Fellow Old Collegians,

Our 2010 Annual Dinner, held at the Hackney Hotel on Friday 22nd October, was a great success.

More than a hundred Old Collegians attended to share fellowship and to celebrate their school life. We were led in prayer by Fr Allan Winter and then heard from the oldest Old Collegian who attended on the night, Ivan O'Loughlin, who shared reminiscences of his life at CBC Wakefield Street and then proposed the Toast to the Alma Mater. The Principal, Noel Mifsud, responded and outlined the changes occurring at CBC with the building program undertaken at the Junior School.

At the end of the night, once all the raffle prizes had been distributed, all in attendance belted out a rousing rendition of the School Song. I don’t think the waiting staff at the hotel had ever heard anything like it. We all certainly had the X-Factor!

My sincere thanks to Michael Moran, the Association’s indefatigable Secretary, who made all the arrangements for the dinner, and to my fellow committee members: Mark Roberts, Paul Della, Kevin Sheehy and Alex Mabarrack, for their support and assistance.

In addition, I had the pleasure of attending the 30-year Reunion of the class of 1980 that was organised by old collegians Bruno Zeni, Bruno Canuo, Vince Caretti and Stephen McCabe and was held at the Lord Melbourne Hotel on Saturday 30th October. Old Collegians from interstate and overseas attended and it was an outstanding celebration. On behalf of the Association and of all Old Collegians, I congratulate them on the great celebration and excellent organisation. As an ex-teacher of theirs, it was absolute and unqualified delight to be there with them as they celebrated their school days and caught up with each other, after all these years. I extended them all an invitation to maintain contact with each other through the Association and to consider attending any of our events and even our Annual Dinner next year.

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas.

Mr Viano Jaksa
President (1971)

Dear Old Collegians,

2010 has been an exciting year for the Christian Brothers College community as we build a community of Faith, Excellence, Community and Compassion. The Junior Campus Redevelopment Project is nearing completion, our enrolments will exceed the 1050 mark for the first time in our history and we have employed consultants to facilitate due diligence as part of our proposed entry into Child Care in 2011.

The College has established itself as a leading digital school. Every teaching staff member and every Year 8-12 student will have their own laptop computer in 2011. All other year levels will have at least one computer between 3 students. Our College Intranet system will be live next year and students and parents will be able to access ‘real time’ student academic records and attendance data. Staff will also be able to download and mark assignments online. Both campuses will have a 24 hour, seven day a week access to a virtual emergency link to Wakefield Hospital with doctors on video standby to advise our First Aid officers.

We were advised recently that we were successful in obtaining a $975,000 Federal grant to establish a Trade Training Centre in Electro Technology. Old Collegian John Salerno is assisting the College in developing useful partnerships with Adelaide University to facilitate this project. Dr Cheng-Chew Lim Associate Professor of the School of Engineering advised us that two of our CBC old collegians are currently their top PHD students and we hope to have Luke Balzan visit the College in 2011 to speak to our students.

In this great time of growth and excitement in the College- it is important to take time to stop and reflect on the joy, peace and amazing grace that the Christ Child brings us this Christmas. On behalf of the CBC community I wish all Old Collegians and your families every blessing for a safe and Holy Christmas.

Mr Noel Mifsud
Principal
YOUR MESSAGE IS YOUR LIFE!

Mahatma Gandhi once stated that “Your message is your life”. During the holidays I was fortunate to attend an India immersion with seventeen other teachers from Edmund Rice Schools around Australia. The immersion experience was organised by Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), facilitated by members of the executive team, including the Director Wayne Tinsey. The experience to India challenged every sense, where poverty confronted you on every level. India with a population of 1.2 billion people has over 40% of its population under the poverty line. This means that almost half of the population earn less than 500 rupee or $10 per week. Despite the extreme hardship and poverty people faced there was a great sense of hope in the faces of the people we meet. India is one of those amazing countries of diversity of many different religions, whether they are Muslims, Hindus or Christians, but are united together under an understanding that there is a God(s) that directs their life and will reward them in the next world.

In India only 1.2% of the population is Catholic. Yet the Catholic Church has a strong presence in India. Education is seen as the key to the future growth of the country where many children do not have access to any form of education particularly in rural areas. The various diocesans within India have established many catholic schools to provide education for the children of rural areas. Even though these schools maybe catholic, they primarily serve children who are Hindi, Muslim or belong to tribal groups. I was fortunate to visit and teach at many of these schools and was overwhelmed by the work being done by the local priests, nuns and lay teachers to provide an education to children with limited money, resources and no funding from the government. All the schools teach English as a second language to provide an opportunity for them gain employment in the future. The faces of the children continued lighted up as we visited each school and orphanage as many foreigners ever get to visit these rural communities and it provided an opportunity for them to practice their English and of course to talk about cricket, which they love with passion!

A highlight of the visit was to attend the Loretto Day School, Sealdah in Kolkutta, where Sister Cyril, an Irish nun has transformed what was a middle class school to a school that lives out its value to those in need. She has made it school policy that at least half the students that attend the school are from families who are below the poverty line and street children, who sleep on the street come into the school each evening to sleep, are provided food and are taught to read and write by the day students. She has moved the school from charity to justice, where the school has over 16 programs that outreach to the community and deal with issues such child labour, exploitation of women, microcredit, support for rural children, challenged children and visiting the local railway station where the girls from the school take food for the elderly that are left at the station to die as they are seen as a liability to families. The school demonstrated clearly that through education it can have a liberating influence which can bring about social change in India.

An unforgettable experience in my time in India was spending two days at a Leeper Colony at Ishopanthi Ashram, Puri. This was a centre established by Fr. Marian, a Polish priest who came to India after the Second World War. He provided a supportive community where people with leprosy could be treated with dignity and love. For the community they were touched by our presence, not by us just being there but willing to touch them, talk to them and help them dress their wounds. The community has a hospital that treats all new people which arrive with leprosy. These are people who have been isolated by their society and the mere presence of us there with them displayed that we are all equal as human beings. All members of the community were so welcoming inviting us into their homes and the children at the local school provided us with a performance of their culture.

Pope Pius XI in Divini Redemptoris stated that: “Charity will never be true charity unless it takes justice into account...Let no one attempt with small gifts of charity to exempt themselves from the great duties imposed by justice.” India is a country that challenges you to look at the world with new eyes. It is a country where poverty can be seen at all levels and make you as an individual reassess how we can make a difference in the world. Although the challenges in India are enormous there are many small programs that are being initiated that are making a difference at a local level. As a college we also need to be aware of our needs, to have different lenses to be aware of those who are marginalised financially, emotionally, spiritually, psychologically and physically. Blessed Edmund Rice had a vision of social change and we all need to be people where “Your message is your life” and not be people who are blind to those that are disadvantaged.

Mr Shaun Clarke
Deputy Principal
The Duke of Edinburgh Award at CBC

Colin Curnow has been a Coordinator for five years at Christian Brothers College (CBC) guiding kids towards achieving their Awards. He says a key reason he endorses and supports The Duke of Ed the way he does, is because he truly sees how it is giving his students life experiences and skills.

“As soon as I saw what the kids were doing, how it was very flexible and more ‘Gen Y’, and I also got a flavour from it, I wanted to get involved. It’s not just about getting your rucksack out and camping like people think, it’s about taking the ordinary things we do and take for granted, and putting them together and getting an extraordinary experience and character reference,” said Colin.

The Online Record Book has been a significant part of Colin and his Participants experience with The Duke of Ed for the past year, where they took part in the pilot project which ran in 2009 and they have since adopted the new technology since its official launch.

“It’s really helpful that you keep track of everybody at the push of a button and without doing it by hand to input the data. It’s so instant and has made it (The Duke of Ed) more available to kids which is a huge benefit,” he said.

As part of their Adventurous Journey and for their Residential Project, Colin and some of his Gold Award Participants travelled to Vietnam to take part in a pilgrimage. They have just returned from their 14 day trip, the sixth pilgrimage run by the school, where the Participants have come back with a new sense of self and purpose, and a desire to change the community and lives of others.

Colin said the activities Participants took part in were rather confronting and was a huge wake up call for them as they worked in an AIDS hospice, helped out in a soup kitchen which produced meals for terminally ill people, gave their time and care to disabled orphans, and interacted with special ed kindergarteners.

“It’s a spiritual, charitable exercise that suits the Duke of Ed format... it was pretty confronting and a big reality check for Participants, giving them perspective on their own lives,” he said.

While in Vietnam, Participants distributed money which had been fundraised as well as some of their own to local groups and charities who needed support, resulting in developments such as new play equipment for the children at the orphanage.

“This group were really generous with their own money... So little here means so much there, and it’s not just the money but also the time and effort they give,” said Colin. The Duke of Ed has proven to change the lives not just of Colin’s Participants, but also the lives of others who they have helped along the way, and he believes that it is building young people in character and shows just how dedicated they are to things they are passionate about.

“The Duke of Ed is an interdisciplinary award, which gives credit in lots of ways and in lots of things which are valuable in the community but often aren’t recognised, such as playing a sport, working for a charitable organisation or just putting yourself out there in a position of challenge. It fills in the gaps and gives a better picture of a person,” he said.

Ms Meagan Gray
Communications Coordinator
The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in Australia

On Friday 12 November CBC was honoured with a pastoral visit by the Archbishop of Adelaide, the Most Reverend Philip Wilson DD JCL D. Lit. Archbishop Wilson spent time having morning tea with staff and then addressed the Year 10 assembly. He spoke of the importance of prayer and the call to be men of integrity with solid morality in a modern secular world.

The Archbishop was able to connect effectively with the boys, having attended an all boys Catholic college himself and being a talented rower and sportsman. His honest and informed reflection on life provided the boys with heart felt wisdom and spirituality from a Church leader. Both the boys and the staff were very grateful for the Archbishop taking the time to speak with them and were most impressed with what he shared.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal:
Religious Identity and Mission
Christian Brothers College and the Parents and Friends Association warmly invite you to the Twenty11 Art Exhibition for an evening of fine art, wine, food and entertainment.

This is our inaugural Art Exhibition to celebrate and exhibit the works of established and emerging South Australian artists.

Friday 25th FEBRUARY – Sunday 27th FEBRUARY
Christian Brothers College Centenary Gymnasium, 214 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA.

Opening Night: Friday: 7.00pm – 10.00pm
Tickets: $20.00 per person.
For more information, please contact:
Doriano Lopresto on 8400 4200 or cbcartsfestival@cbc.sa.edu.au

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CBCOC Online Community
Log on to www.cbc.sa.edu.au and find the link to the CBCOC Online Community. There, you can enter your details and your name will be added to the directory, allowing people from around the world to email you.

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