Dear Fellow Old Collegians,

On Friday 14th May, the CBC Old Collegians’ Association held its first Old Collegians’ Lunch in Adelaide, at the Seven Stars Hotel in Angas Street, just around the corner from our Alma Mater. We’d been receiving some feedback from members that, although the Annual Dinner was a fine occasion filled with a rich tradition and history, it was difficult for some of our elderly members to attend a function held at night. We sent out a questionnaire to gauge interest in the idea of holding a function during the day and I’m pleased to say that there was a pleasing response from members and that our first lunch event held in Adelaide was a great success. All who attended agreed that they’d be happy to attend another similar event in the future and to spread the word amongst the retired members of our Association. Perhaps you might be able to attend with your friends?

Visitors to the school will have noticed that in some ways, CBC has reverted to the crowded site that it knew in previous years, as the Senior School hosts the Junior School students while construction of the new Junior School take place. I was very pleased to see the good nature with which all the students interacted in difficult circumstances. The spirit of co-operation is alive and well at Wakefield Street and by looking at the plans for the Junior School, it will be well worth the wait!

Please put these two important dates in your diary. Firstly, the Old Collegians’ College Birthday Barbecue to be held on Sunday 15th August at 12.30pm in the Eastern Courtyard of the College. Come along with family and friends and take a tour of the school, while enjoying a barbecue, refreshments and fellowship. Secondly, the Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 22nd October, 7pm at the Hackney Hotel, Hackney Road. Put the date in your diaries now. Our next issue of “The Gym” will carry booking forms and further details.

It’s great to see the ongoing and outstanding success of the CBCOCFC who are doing really well in Division 3 of the SAAFL. For their latest news, be sure to check out their excellent website, at www.cbcoc.com.au.

May God Bless you all.

Mr Viano Jaksa
President (1971)

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Dear Old Collegians,

It was a pleasure recently to join President Viano Jaksa and the CBC Old Collegians for a lunch at the Seven Stars Hotel. 30 Old Collegians from the 1930’s (Ivan McGlaughlin) through to the 1970’s era gathered to reminisce and share each other’s company.

We offer our blessings to Old Collegians who have died since our last edition of the Gym. These include: Kevin Flaherty (1941-1943) brother of Br Michael Flaherty who is presently a CBC Counsellor and former Headmaster (1971-1976) and Mr Brian O’Loughlin who passed away suddenly on May 25 at 74 years of age (Old scholar in the 1940’s). Brian is the father-in-law of Board Member Mr. Tony Egan.

On a brighter note, the $10.5 million Junior Campus development is progressing well. Foundations were laid last term and the first floor concrete poured recently. We still anticipate completion of the building early in 2011.

I wish to thank all Old Collegians who have supported the project and made cash donations for the new CBC Junior Chapel which will be built as part of the project. Donations can be made payable to the CBC Finance Office.

The College continues to experience growth with 2011 enrolments already exceeding the 1,000 student mark and 2012 enrolments are almost finalised. Over 600 people visited the College during the May 2nd Open Day and Principal Tours attract over 40 families each term.

The College will celebrate our 133rd year (since the laying of the CBC Foundation Stone) on the 15th August. On the 13th of August we will once again hold a Fete during the day with foods, music and activities celebrating the diverse multicultural talents of our community. A Birthday Mass in the Gym will be held at 10am.

Old Collegians are welcome to attend a CBC Birthday BBQ on 15th August (Feast of Assumption) at 12.30pm in the Eastern Courtyard off Wakefield Street.

I look forward to seeing you at the BBQ and offer my blessings and best wishes to you all.

Mr Noel Mifsud
Principal
A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to go to Europe with the tour group for 2010. We travelled through London, Belgium and France with the main purpose of studying the journeys of fallen soldiers on the Western Front in the Great War and ultimately find their final resting place. We saw many different tourist attractions and experienced many new and exciting things. But beyond the attractions and bright lights lay a history that few in Australia really know. This history still lives there today in the form of memorials, cemeteries, battlefields and places that soldiers would have congregated between 1914-1918. The places I visited will always share a past with Australia and I was privileged to find out why.

In Belgium there is a small town called Ypres that was very important for the allied forces in WWI. During the war most of the town was flattened, including the gate to the city, called the Menin Gate. Before it was destroyed Australians took home with them the lion statues that sat out the front and they are now at the entrance to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The gate was rebuilt and the names of missing allied soldiers from the area are written on the walls. At least three of these men attended CBC.

Private Blinman Vincent Butfield was a member of the 37th Battalion of the Australian Infantry. He died on the 13th of July, 1917. Private Joseph McCann was a member of the 48th Battalion and died on the 8th of June, 1917 at age 27. Sergeant William Joseph O’Regan fought for the 52nd and died on the 25th of September, 1917 aged 23. The names of at least four other CBC old scholars are written on the walls of the Villers-Bretonneux memorial, the main Australian War Memorial in Europe and the place where I was to attend the dawn service on ANZAC Day. The CBC old boys who grace these walls include Sergeant Frank Giles who fought for the 48th battalion and died on the 5th of August, 1916 at 30 years old. Private Robert George Colligan fought for the 4th Pioneers and died on the 3rd of August, 1916. Private Patrick Emmet Wescombe died on the 27th of August, 1916 for the 5th Field Ambulance at age 22 and Frank Alexander Moore, a private of the 52nd Battalion died at age 26 on the 4 of September, 1916.

The last CBC war veteran I could find was buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium. His name was Henry James Purvis, a Private of the 10th Battalion. Before his death on the 20th of September, 1917, he was awarded the Military Medal, one the highest honours an Australian soldier could achieve. He died at age 27.

We were also fortunate enough to experience the local culture very intimately. We joined an English class in the town of Peronne where the students, about the equivalent of year 11s, were able to practice some of their English skills and we were able to try out some scattered French. We shared lunch with some of them and even taught them how to kick a football.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was visiting my great-great-grandfather. He also fell on the Western Front, in the Battle of the Somme, one of the deadliest offensives in the whole war, resulting in the deaths of 1.3 million soldiers. He was buried near a town called Rouen. I am the first person from his family to have ever visited his grave and I wrote him a letter that I left by his headstone. Each of the six students had an opportunity to present at their soldier’s grave or memorial and each presentation was very moving.

Some people have asked me to describe the trip for them since I have been back and I’ve found it very hard to put into words. Everybody’s experience was different but no less special. Every person on the trip had a different perspective on the Great War and its significance on Australian Society today. The ANZAC spirit means so much to Australian and New Zealand today. There is no history book that can describe the feeling you get when you stand at an ANZAC Day dawn service and hear the bugler as everybody falls silent or when the Ode is recited in honour of the diggers that never made it home.

One thing I do know and want everyone to appreciate is that a lot of young men, some not that much older than we are, and some who even learnt and played at this very school gave up their lives so that we can have the lives we have today. Some of our families were here when the Great War happened; others arrived much later in search of a better life. Either way we should never ever forget the sacrifice made and the country that was built on the back of what these men gave.
The Old Boys Priests have recently retired:

Fr Michael Doherty
- ordained 1957 (Rome)

Fr George Nader
- ordained 1962 (Adelaide)

We thank them for their many years of devoted pastoral care and wish them well in their retirement.

The Old Collegians Association would like to congratulate and extend our best wishes to Fr. George Nader on his retirement as Parish Priest of Plympton. George Nader graduated from CBC in 1953 with his talent at football already apparent as the Captain of the First XVIII. After leaving school he worked for twelve months before entering the seminary and also played for the West Adelaide Reserves.

In his many years of service he served the parish’s of Goodwood, Mt Gambier, Kangaroo Island, Glenelg, Colonel Light Gardens and Plympton as well as having the Chaplaincy for Largs Bay Orphanage and Apostleship of the Sea.

David Fitzsimon’s was proud CBC Old Collegian and current staff and students are all supporting this worthy cause, why not join in. Further information from Athletics SA.

What is Fitzy’s 5?

Fitzy’s 5 is a brand new mass-participation fun run on an inner city road loop course, covering five kilometres. This event is currently under development and it is proposed that the inaugural fun run will be held on Sunday August 1st 2010.

Who was David Fitzsimons?

David “Fitzy” Fitzsimons was one of Australia’s leading distance runners in the 1970’s. Renowned for being able to push himself to the point of absolute exhaustion in training, the stories about Fitzy are as legendary as his racing feats. Fitzy won 8 Australian Championships over 5000m and 10000m, including the double on 3 occasions. A dual Olympian, an Olympic finalist over 10000m, a 6th placing in the 1974 Commonwealth Games and a bronze medal over 5000m at the 1977 World Cup made Dave Fitzsimons one of the greats. A proud South Australian, Fitzy had a wicked sense of humour and was a devoted husband and proud father. Forever a picture of fitness, sadly, Fitzy was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. As tenacious and determined as Fitzy was, even he couldn’t beat this opponent and tragically, he passed away on September 7, 2008 at the age of 58.

Purpose of Fitzy’s 5

To honour the memory of David Fitzsimons, Fitzy’s 5 aims to raise awareness and much needed funds to support vital cancer research. It is anticipated that Fitzy’s 5 will partner with Adelaide’s iconic City Bay Fun Run and it will be positioned as a key lead up event. Further, the event will also assist in the promotion of an active and healthy lifestyle and assist Athletics SA’s in its efforts to continue to develop the profile and participation rates of athletics in South Australia.

The Vision

The creators of this event have a vision for it to become the preeminent five kilometre road race in Australia and a premier event in South Australia alongside the City Bay Fun Run. We see this as the beginning of what will become a widely respected and recognised event that will eventually raise significant funds for cancer research.

Help us make this a reality

This as an opportunity to create something special. With your support, we can honour one of South Australia’s greatest athletes, and help in the fight to find a cure for a terrible disease that touches the lives of so many individuals and families the world over every day. We extend an invitation to you to join us as we Honour a Legend: Seek a Cure.
Junior School Name Bricks

For a limited time, Christian Brothers College is offering parents the opportunity to purchase an individualised brick for $50 which will be on permanent display at the new CBC Junior School. All money raised will go towards the development of the Junior School Chapel and other student facilities at the Senior and Junior campuses. This will be a unique and lasting record of your support and your name will go down in history!

Available to all (R–12) past and present CBC students.

In 1982 Br McAppion launched the 100 Club for the Old Collegians to fund a gymnasium and 6 classrooms. In 2009 CBC launched the 100 Club. Your donation of $100 or more will contribute towards the cost of the new CBC chapel in the new Junior Campus due for completion in 2011.

Donors will be acknowledged on a 100 Club Honour Board in the new Junior School.

Please send a cheque, pay in cash or complete the credit card details for your tax deductible donation marked CBC 100 Club, and forward to the CBC Finance Office.