Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of ‘The Triune’, a newsletter for our Old Collegians or Alumni of:

- St Joseph’s College, Colac (1888-1979)
- Trinity College (1967-1979)
- St Joseph’s-Trinity College (1979-1982) and
- Trinity College Colac (1983-present).

It is important that all past and present students and staff of these schools feel connected to the current Trinity College Colac: the history and culture of each of these schools have contributed to building the foundations and forming the traditions that have allowed us to become the college we are today.

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Colac in 1888 and opened a primary and secondary school, the Christian Brothers opened Trinity College in 1967, originally with Years 7-9. Since the earliest beginnings of Catholic Education in the Colac District much has changed. In the same way the early pioneers of Catholic education approached a new frontier, our College continues to explore and expand the boundaries of learning. To do this, it is important we can reflect upon, appreciate and celebrate our past. There have been many changes that have occurred, but what has not changed, is a commitment to provide excellence in education for the students of the community who wish to receive a Catholic education.

Next year, in 2017, Trinity College will celebrate our Golden Jubilee. It will be 50 years since Trinity College first started as a school and almost 130 years since the Sisters of Mercy first opened a Catholic Secondary School in Colac.

In an effort to strengthen our school’s link between past, present and future, we are establishing an alumni by gathering a list of names and contact details of former students and staff from our founding schools.

‘The Triune’ is the newsletter for our old collegians and we wish to present engaging stories about the present day happenings and events at Trinity College, to explore stories of those from the past and to provide a link for our former students and staff to remain, not only connected to the college, but also to their fellow old collegians.

Towards the end of the newsletter you will find the section titled ‘Where Are They Now’ which also includes an email address. I invite you to take the time to write to provide us with some information about yourself which we can place in future editions of ‘The Triune’ along with the stories of other past members of our college community.

It is the hope of the College that ‘The Triune’ will be produced twice yearly and distributed via email to all those who have registered their email address on our Alumni database.

I commend this newsletter to you and look forward to your future contributions as we develop this link to our shared college tradition. I thank Mary Day, a long time staff member and parent of four former students, for the work she has undertaken in establishing a database of old collegians and in producing this newsletter.

We look forward to building links with all who have been part of our history and who share the tradition of our motto: to live good lives by giving our best in all we do.

Virtus Nobilitat
Tim O’Farrell
Principal
Changes over the years

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>Sisters of Mercy arrive in Colac</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>Sisters of Mercy open a school in Calvert Street and from this school emerged St Joseph’s College</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Trinity College opened</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>St Joseph’s College classes begin the move to Pound Road site</td>
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<td>1979-82</td>
<td>St Joseph’s-Trinity College</td>
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The aerial photos below show the changes from the first photo taken in 1967 to the most recent photo taken in 2015.
Buildings Today

Chapel

At the commencement of the 2015 school year, a new chapel was established, which opens on to the Reflection Garden. The first chapel was built as part of the original Christian Brothers’ residence and even after the Brothers moved out to private premises, the chapel was used by the school. However, due to lack of space because of the increase in student numbers, the chapel was decommissioned in 2010. A temporary chapel was set up in a portable building in 2014. Finally, in 2015, as part of the College Master Plan, a new chapel was established in what had previously been the music room since 1997.

The altar from the original chapel was remodelled and excess timber was used in a new presider’s chair and lectern. The Stations of the Cross from the original chapel were repaired and modernised and are on the wall in the new chapel. The stained glass window of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which was originally presented to the Christian Brothers from the P&F and members of the community, has been installed in the new chapel with a complementing stained glass window with the current College crest.

The new chapel was blessed by Fr Michael O’Toole, St Mary’s PP, on Trinity Sunday 2015 in the presence of members of the Parish and College community.
On the 14th November 2014, Bishop Paul Bird, used the following words to bless the new College Reflection Garden.

_Bless + the Reflection Garden, a place of calmness and peace, for quiet reflection._

The Reflection Garden was built by Trinity College with assistance from the Parents & Friends Association. The new College Chapel opens on to the garden and is an area of serenity and peace.

As part of the Reflection Garden, it is planned to have a wall commemorating the lives of deceased staff and students from our Trinity College community. A specially designed leaf, which will be attached to the wall, will be engraved with the deceased person’s name and dates of involvement with the College.

Prior to the end of 2016, arrangements will be completed to enable families or friends to apply to have a leaf mounted in the garden. Only a deceased student or staff member is eligible to have a plaque installed in their name and the deceased person must have been enrolled at, or employed by, Trinity College, St Joseph’s College or Trinity College Colac, as it is now known.

For more information, including the criteria and the application form, please contact the College or logon to the school website.
This was the banner headline in the Colac Herald on Monday, 13 February 1967. The local paper goes on to say that the opening in the previous week “marked the achievement of an ambition of Colac’s Catholic people for the last 20 years — to have their own secondary school for boys.”

In the early sixties, a group of laymen independently approached the Provincial of the Christian Brothers, Brother Garvey, to open negotiations for the founding of a school. These men bypassed the Parish Priest, Monsignor Conway, who reasoned that a new church was the greater need. Brother Garvey dismissed the men, suggesting it would be far more appropriate for them to contact the Bishop, Doctor O’Collins.

With the advent of a new Parish Priest, Monsignor H. Gleeson, and some financial pressure from the laity, an agreement was reached whereby three Christian Brothers would open a school in Pound Road, providing initially for the three junior secondary classes. Sites other than Pound Road had been looked at, the Western Oval (then Church property) and Murray’s Hill being two of them.

The building firm, Civil and Civic, was approached, and submitted a package plan of $226,000 for the school building (now the Rice Wing) and the residence for the Brothers and Housekeeper (now Tuck Administration block). Work began on the project towards the end of June 1966. The first Headmaster was appointed in September of 1966. In the few months before the opening of the school much work had to be done — curriculum finalised, staffing attended to, school colours (red and black) and uniform decided, a school crest — incorporating two symbols of the Trinity as well as a shell from Bishop O’Collins’ coat of arms — with the Latin motto, “ut prosimus”, “that we may do good”. School Fees were also determined. In many of these matters, the help of Mr John Flynn, a personal friend of the Headmaster, was invaluable.

Trinity College opened in February 1967, in the time when there was no Government Aid, and in its first year depended on fees coming from its 91 students paying at $30 per term a maximum of just over $8000 for the year. This amount was used for running costs, the keep of the three brothers and the payment of a house keeper. Cleaning of the school and care of the grounds was in the hands of the three brothers. The budget was extremely tight, and, but for the generosity of parents as well as the local Colac Community, almost impossible. Extra amenities, for example the shower and change rooms at the end of the Rice Wing (not in the original plan) were financed with profits from: the school canteen, under the honorary management of Mrs Ailin Lavery; the growing of peas, organised by Mr Ed Carmody, on the area bordering Hart Street; and the very successful calf raising scheme, the brainchild of Mr Gerard Doolan. However, there were other problems. Students travelling to Catholic Schools received little consideration. They were allowed on the buses, if there was room, and if it was the nearest Catholic School. Through the good auspices of the local Government Schools, Mr John Flynn (Colac High) and Mr Maurie Flynn (Colac Technical) the bus route was changed and buses between these two schools travelled along Hearn Street. This enabled the Trinity boys access across the playing fields. The Principal of Trinity, Brother Tuck, approached the Minister for Transport later in the first year, citing the danger (as well as the inconvenience) of boys having to alight in Hearn Street alongside a four foot drain. Fortunately the route was adjusted and the buses permitted to travel along Pound Road, even though at this stage it was unsealed.
After this frenetic yet extremely happy first year in Trinity’s history, the school settled down. The first trickle of Government financial assistance was extremely welcome and the fantastic support of the whole community continued. However, it soon became evident that many people wanted a school with senior classes, but the small numbers of boys from a single stream school made the provision of the variety of subjects not economically viable. In 1969, the Headmaster put a tentative suggestion to the Mercy Sisters (who were running St Joseph’s in Colac) and to the Parish Priest, to bring the senior girls from St Joseph’s to the Sacred Heart site in Pound Road. This would, while maintaining the autonomy of both St Joseph’s and Trinity, enable the sharing of senior classes. Monsignor Gleeson, having committed much finance already to Trinity and with the renewal of the Church a priority, could not help, and with the then Christian Brothers policy on co-education, the idea was scrapped. Later Headmasters were able to arrange for some classes at the Government Schools, while a number of the boys left Colac for their senior education.

It must be noted here the effect that the opening of Trinity College had on the other Catholic Secondary Schools in the district, namely St Joseph’s Colac, and St Brendan’s Coragulac. Both of these excellent schools, run by the Sisters of Mercy (Melbourne) and the Good Samaritan Sisters respectively, had catered for the secondary needs of both boys and girls for many years. There was great cooperation amongst the three schools and they often came together, as for example, on Sports Days and Speech Nights. However, with the opening of Trinity, numbers in the other schools declined markedly as the boys went to Trinity. The effect of this decline was that St Brendan’s had to close its secondary classes (end of 1970) and some of the girls from there came to St Joseph’s. Colac and the surrounding districts settled into a pattern of Catholic Education which met most of the local needs at that time.

By 1973 these needs had changed. A survey was conducted among parishioners about the future of the Catholic schools in Colac. Lengthy discussions and planning led to the relocation of St Joseph’s girls to the Pound Road site, part of which was already occupied by the Trinity boys. The schools were completely separate with two administrations, but with a little sharing of facilities. During the period of transition from Calvert Street (St Joseph’s) to Pound Road, teachers moved between the two schools, being reimbursed 10 cents for travel. The move was completed by the beginning of 1978. At this time, there was a significant change in the administration of St Joseph’s. The Mercy Sisters, who, for almost 100 years had guided the school, decided that a lay principal be appointed. There were difficulties and the appointee resigned due to ill health in July of 1978. A Mercy Sister, Jan Geeson, was appointed acting principal of St Joseph’s for the rest of the year.

At the General Chapter of the Christian Brothers in Rome in 1978, the Brothers’ policy on Co-Education was reviewed. Whereas the Order had been founded to teach Boys, Co-Education could be approved by the Superior General “when the needs of the Church required it”. During the difficult year of 1978, the Bishop of Ballarat made a formal application to the Superior General. Fortuitously the General was in Australia at the time and gave his consent to the combining of St Joseph’s with Trinity and sanctioned the appointment of Brother Ron Stewart as the Principal of St Joseph’s —Trinity. After the experimental period of three years to determine the viability of the amalgamation, a new Constitution was approved in 1982 and the amalgamation became permanent, with the name “St Joseph’s-Trinity” reverting to Trinity College.

This account of history was written by Br Kevin Tuck in February 2000.

Br Tuck is now living at Nazareth House in Ballarat, near his sister and other family members. Everyone was delighted he was well enough to officially open the new Tuck Wing in 2014.
The foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Colac

Copied from “A Mercy Way of Life Colac 1888-1988” by Sr Mary Francis Larkins, RSM

The Bishop of Ballarat Most Reverend James Moore and Father Michael Belan of Colac applied to Mother M. Agnes, Superior of Ballarat, for a Community of Sisters to teach the children in Colac. Mother M. Agnes with Sisters M. Austin Howley, M. Ignatius Lambert, M. Magdalen Ryan and M. Joseph Moloney came to Colac by train on 10th January, 1888. The arrangements for the reception were carried out under the direction of Rev. Michael Belan and Rev. E. Fitzmaurice.

The welcome was tremendous. A large number of parishioners were waiting on the platform to receive them. A carriage and pair of Dr. Foster’s was provided to take the Sisters to St. Mary’s Church. A procession was quickly formed with Father Nelan and the children leading. Then came the Sisters, behind them, members of the congregation in vehicles of every description, men on foot and finally a cavalcade of horsemen followed along Gellibrand Street to the Church. There, an address was read by Brigid Ryan. The Church was filled to capacity. Several hymns were sung, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. When the congregation filed out of the church, the procession re-formed and moved to the temporary convent, a weatherboard dwelling in Calvert Street. Here the nuns lived for eighteen months while the present Convent was being built.

For the rest of the month of January, the Sisters set up their little Convent and prepared for the new year’s school work. Their intention was to open two schools on the same day a primary and a secondary one. Early in February, 1888, ninety pupils were enrolled in the primary and seventeen in the secondary school. The teaching staff in the primary was ample. Sisters M. Austin, Magdalen, Joseph and a secular teacher who had come from Ballarat all began duty on the opening day. In the secondary school Mother M. Agnes, Sister M. Ignatius and Miss Angela Freeman Dickinson (later Sr. Mary Angela à Beckett) worked together for many years. The school was situated on the corner of Gellibrand and Calvert Streets.

Dean Nelan had built this Church-school in 1876. The Sisters gave religious instruction to children in Beeac and Birregurra and any adults who requested this knowledge were helped as well.

The foundation stone of the new Convent was laid by Most Rev. James Moore D.D. Bishop of Ballarat, on the 16th June, 1889 in the presence of a very large crowd. It cost 2,000 pounds. Fourteen years later additions costing 1,500 pounds were built. Dean Nelan organised an Easter Gypsy Encampment which was a financial success and the Convent debt was cleared. In 1902 a balcony was built.

As new candidates entered the Convent and the number of pupils and boarders increased, more additions were planned. A large kitchen with dormitory above for boarders and ten rooms upstairs surmounting a spacious school-room below were built. Sister M. Xavier Delahunty was the first boarder in 1906. Boy boarders to the age of eleven years were admitted. In 1909, a beautiful Gothic chapel with Sisters’ refectory below was built. This refectory was used as a school-room as some pupils will recall.

At this time there were sub-primary, primary, and secondary divisions in St. Joseph’s. The school was registered No. 495. St. Mary’s was No. 496. As the registration of schools became compulsory in Victoria early in the present century, the Sisters opened a College for the Training of Teachers. Everything needed in the way of apparatus for the success of demonstration of lessons was purchased.

Mr. Hansen, inspector of Schools, visited the Convent, saw what was being done, and recommended that the College be registered for the training of primary school teachers. During the period 1911 — 1935 many teachers trained by Sister M. Joseph attained certificates from the Registration Board. When training Colleges were established in the large cities, the convent training centre closed and prospective candidates were sponsored by parish organisations at Ascot Vale Training College.

In 1924, an east wing was finished with the addition of a
dormitory, dressing room, bath-rooms, music room and other necessities for the boarders above three large classrooms and two verandahs. Eventually, the Boys’ boarding area was closed.

In the fifties the sub-primary and primary grades at St. Joseph’s were amalgamated with St. Mary’s school and grades seven and eight from there were enrolled at the College. Later, the Girls’ boarding school was closed and their premises were used as class-rooms. By this time St. Mary’s had grown to five hundred and fifty and two new rooms were built in 1959 to accommodate one hundred and eighty Preparatory and Grade one students. In 1962, the new Sacred Heart School at Elliminyt was opened and children who lived south of Murray Street transferred thence and so reduced the enrolment at St. Mary’s.

In 1967, Colac was pleased to welcome the Christian Brothers. At first they took Forms one, two and three at Trinity and forms four and five continued at St. Joseph’s, which has been co-educational for eighty years.

Brothers Tuck, O’Dwyer, and Plowman were the pioneers at Trinity College. While Father C. McKenzie was Parish Priest in 1975, the senior Forms at St. Joseph’s moved into Trinity College. Two portable classrooms were transferred from the Convent grounds to the Trinity site by Mr. Black.

Eventually, the Colleges became co-educational with Brother Ronald Stewart as Principal and Sr. Kathleen Cussen his deputy. In 1988, Brother G. Brady is Principal.

Besides teaching in the local schools, the Sisters opened a school at a place called Corrunun (now Coragulac). St. Brendan’s Church there was used as a schoolroom five days in the week. On Friday afternoon, all signs of school work were put away and the place was prepared for Sunday’s Mass. On Monday morning, the case was reversed. For twenty years, in summer heat or winter cold they travelled in a cab drawn by a fine chestnut mare that answered to the name of “Bess”. A boy drove, attended class and fed the horse and after school, drove the sisters and lay teachers home to Colac, at a rattling pace. Over the years, there were several drivers. Mick Daffy, Bogo Embrey and Mattie McMahon are three names I recall hearing. A harness room, buggy shed, cow bail and poultry yard have long since disappeared from the convent yard, but memories remain.

After the death of Dean Nelan in 1916, the Parish of Colac was divided and Corrunun was cut off. As the Sisters of Mercy did not wish to establish a convent in the newly-formed parish, they gave up the school to the Good Samaritan Sisters who came to the district in 1918.
Memories - of St Joseph’s

Carol Clayton (Fenn) 1973-1977

I commenced in Form 1 at St Joseph’s College in 1973 when the classes were still at Calvert Street. Our classrooms were two portables for Form 1 & 2, situated by the tennis/netball courts. Sr Marion McDonald was our Form 1 teacher. She was from around the Colac & District area and her family are still associated with the school today, with family members here.

Back then I was from a small country school of about 40 students, moving to a secondary school of about 100 plus girls. I felt very lost in this big school, where most of my fellow classmates knew each other. I was very lucky to meet two wonderful girls who became my friends. I have the good fortune to still be friends with them today.

There have been many changes since I began secondary school, with the amalgamation of St Joseph’s and Trinity College to the school it is today. Prior to the amalgamation, even though the schools were both operating from the one site, they were very much separate schools.

Some changes:
- The girls had to stay on their side of the fence and turf. *When St Joseph’s classes moved to the Pound Road site and prior to the amalgamation.*
- Part Co-ed to full Co-ed.
- Name changed to Trinity College Colac.
- No longer any Christian Brothers or Sisters of Mercy teaching at the school.
- The number of students and teachers has increased greatly.
- There are more buildings and facilities.
- The change when the original Christian Brothers residence was demolished.

The best part of school has been the friendships that have stayed with me.

Carol has been on staff at Trinity College since 2006 and is currently the Uniform Shop Manager. Carol and her husband Lionel operate a farm in the district. Their three daughters: Amanda, Lisa and Megan all attended Trinity College.

PHOTOS WANTED: If former students have any photos of their school days they would be willing to share they would be much appreciated. Photos could be scanned and emailed to alumni@tcc.vic.edu.au or alternatively if they are brought into the school they will be scanned and the original returned to you.
Photos from the Archives

These two photos were taken in 1961 when St Joseph’s students went on an excursion to Daffy’s farm. If you are able to help with the name of the unknown young lady, please contact the school.

L/R: Mary Casey, Frances Smith, Frances Reid, Valérie Harrington, ? Unknown, Lesley Justice, Colleen Cole.

The Triune

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My recollection of early days of Trinity College begins many years ago with the St Mary’s Parish Planned Giving. The parishioners made pledges of what they could afford and the cash was put in the envelopes for the second collection at every Sunday mass.

Eventually the congregation was informed that a Christian Brothers College was to be constructed on grounds opposite the Sacred Heart School on Pound Road and that Trinity College was to be built.

I was a student at St Mary’s Primary School from Prep to Grade 6. Along with most of the class I moved on from top of the pecking order to the bottom as we started what was Form 1 at St Joseph’s College for our interim year, before the new College was opened. I can still recall the stories that Sisters of Mercy spun to us about how strict the Christian Brothers would be and how we larrkins would suffer. They tried to put the fear of God into us but I know now that it turned out to be a falsehood.

Towards the end of 1966 new uniforms were ordered from local outlets like Ray Croft. It was hard to believe that we would be wearing grey suits, grey shirts, a red and black tie along with a red cap that had the metal badge with your enrolment number on the back of it. Finally the start of the 1967 school year arrived and, looking spiffy in our grey suits and red caps, we were off on a new adventure.

Assembly was just before 9am in the area near the tuck shop. We all lined up in class groups with Brothers Tuck, O’Dwyer and Plowman to guide the classes, Forms 1-3. We were the pioneers of Trinity College.

Away from the scholastic side there was lots work to be done. Working Bees were held most weekends to set
out the sporting ovals and build the tennis courts. There were many trips to the bush with the Brothers, students and parents to cut tee tree to build a wind break around the tennis courts. For months there was a hive of activity around the property. Slowly it all started to come together with all the students each planting three trees around the perimeter of the property. The years seemed to fly by. Brother Tuck was a very keen football coach and there was a great emphasis on sports with lots of football and cricket being played.

I remember students’ mothers teaching us to dance for our formal with St Brendan’s. My four years at Trinity College ended in December 1970. The College had expanded to having Form 1 to Form 5, as it was known in those days. I finished my Leaving Certificate at the completion of Form 5 in 1970 (Year 11 in today’s speaking).

During 1970 I sat the Australian Public Service Exam, mostly for experience, as I had intended to go to the Colac High to study for what was known as Matriculation, now known as VCE.

Apparently I had done extremely well in the Public Service Exam. I was approached to take up a clerical position with the Post Master General’s Department in the Telephone Sales Office on the corner of Murray St and Queen St Colac. At the age of 16 years and 9 months I was starting my first job. I was to rise through the ranks in Colac and by age 20 I was promoted to Geelong where I worked until I was around 26 years old.

I left what had become Telecom Australia and became involved in a telecommunications business that was known as Telephone Efficiency Equipment P/L. This was a very busy time in my life. After many years of high pressure I made a decision to take back control of my life and leave the high pressure behind. I moved back to Colac to take stock of my life. This was to last about 18 months. Firstly working on a friend’s dairy farm for about four months and then in a dairy supply business for about a year. I had a chance meeting with an acquaintance that led to a position in the earth moving industry.

I have stayed in that industry and have worked in every State of Australia, except Tasmania, in various roles and at the age of 62 I am looking forward to retirement. I have moved around the country through my working life and have seen most of Australia. We currently live in Seymour where I run my consultancy business and we find time to travel, usually to the USA, every year.

All in all, I believe my years at Trinity College set me up for a successful and fulfilling life, so far.

I remember before I started Year 7, I was very excited about going to Trinity, following my older brothers and sister. I was fortunate having gone to Sacred Heart PS I knew many of the students who would be starting secondary school with me. There are so many highlights when I cast my mind back, but some were particularly formative to me then and continue to be now.

Taking part in the College productions had a huge effect on me: teamwork, commitment, meeting staff and students I may not have otherwise - not to mention getting up and singing and dancing in front of a crowd! I have wondered if I may have ever become a school teacher myself if I hadn’t taken the plunge and got involved. I tell my students these days that I dressed up and performed as a rat, a scarecrow and the Phantom of the Opera and they think it is very humorous indeed. Equally, I imagine my teachers’ reactions upon learning I’ve joined their ranks.

During my time at Trinity College there was significant change. Early on, the Christian Brothers still lived on campus yet later they lived off-site. Early in Year 12 everyone received an invite to have dinner at their residence during the year. The Undercroft was demolished and the hall and food technology facilities were built, the House system was instituted and the uniform transformed.

The trip to Canberra was definitely a highlight. In today’s reckoning it may not seem that remarkable to go to Canberra, but things were different in the early 90’s and I was over the moon to go so far away from home with my school friends and see Parliament House and all of the galleries, museums and monuments there. The sports carnivals, dances and celebrations, all stick out in my memory as really happy times.

During my time at Trinity I was lucky to have made many valuable friendships. I had great mates throughout to play sport with and go through life’s ups and downs. Some of the friends I had at the end of Year 12 remain as my closest today.

I consider myself very fortunate to have gone to school at Trinity College Colac. In a way, one cannot appreciate the benefits of their schooling until many years later. Being in the country at a Catholic school of around only 350 other students with teachers you know and they know you felt restrictive. At that time in my teenage years I couldn’t wait to break out and see what else was out there, but later realise how good an environment Trinity was to grow up in.

Justin Meade
College Captain 1995
Head of House/Teacher of English
St. Francis Xavier College, Berwick
Married with two children.

GRADUATION 1995
(Boys Group)


Centre Row: David Wright, Justin Meade, Tyrone Paatsch, Matthew Bonner.

Front Row: Jamie McCann, Matthew Gannon, Craig Melbourne, Isaac Cheng, Paul Leung.
Photos through the 80’s and 90’s
It has been 5 years since the graduating class of 2011 have walked the halls of Trinity. How time flies! I am fortunate enough to have made lifelong friends from my time at Trinity and we have continued to share great memories together since leaving school. Our five year reunion was a perfect opportunity to touch base and share stories with those peers that we don’t get to see very often. Josh McGuane hosted the event, a fitting venue as this is where we had our last day of Year 12 party.

Amongst the group we have lots of University students and some who are now in the early stages of their Career. Some areas that people have pursued careers in include: Nursing, Primary and Secondary Teaching, Film, Acting, Design, Finance, Radiography, Professional Writing, Sport & Fitness to name a few. There are many great travel stories amongst the group and some are currently overseas doing interesting things.

It was refreshing to all come together to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. I will definitely keep the calendar free for our next milestone in the years to come.

Chloe Consedine.
Reunion - 10 Years

The graduating class of 2006 Trinity College Colac Reunion

On October 23rd, the graduating class of 2006 reunited at a local restaurant in Colac, almost ten years to the date. The cohort of students had not gathered since finishing school at Trinity College Colac on their final day of celebrations as Year 12 students.

Approximately forty of the class mates gathered for a social gathering. Secondary school memories were shared followed by new memories people had made since completing VCE.

As I reflected on the night, I couldn’t help but be amazed by the different paths people had taken, stories that people had and the careers that people had forged from tradesman to accountants, movie directors to male dancers we had it all!

It was evident during the evening that the cohort still holds an everlasting connection built from Trinity College.

One point I took away from the reunion was that success has a diverse definition and everybody is successful in their own way.

Many thanks to Natalie Buckley-Collis for organising the reunion, as a great night was had by all.

Justin McGuane.

REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2017

I have not been able to finalise this section of the newsletter. I was still waiting on information when I had to go to print. I have heard that the following reunions are planned for 2017. I think all groups are looking at early in the year. Please check with the relevant contact person, or call the school in 2017 for further details.

10 Year (1998-2007) - Gabrielle Hickman
20 Year (1988-1997) - Gemma Cuolahan
30 Year (1978-1987) - Robert Montano

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN 2017

A date for the celebrations of the 50th year since the school commenced on this site has not yet been finalised. It is expected that it will happen in late Term Three or early Term Four next year. Our Principal, Tim O’Farrell, is envisaging that over a two week period several events will be held including: the official opening of the Jubilee Centre, weekday and weekend events and displays to showcase the new building and the student’s talents. Please look at the school website early in the new year for the final date and more details on events.
Norman Houghton (1960-1962) attended St Joseph’s College before continuing Years 10 to 12 at St Patrick’s College, Ballarat. Norman entered Monash University to do an Arts degree with a History major. His employment was mostly in cultural heritage management at Sovereign Hill, the Gold Museum, the Geelong Heritage Centre (which he operationally founded in 1979), the Workshops Railway Museum at Ipswich and the Gordon Archives. Other stints included records management compliance work for government and private enterprise in Melbourne. Norman acquired a Post Graduate Diploma in Information Management and a Master of Arts in Archives and Records on the way by part time study. He is a keen historian and has researched and written 35 books on subjects in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Several of the books relate to Colac and district history. Norman is semi-retired and lives in Geelong with his family but has retained constant links with Colac and owns property in town.

Daniel O’Shea (2006-2011) Since graduating Daniel has spent the last five years in Melbourne studying a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Melbourne followed by a Master of Secondary Teaching at the Australian Catholic University. Reversing the journey made by the O’Shea’s over 150 years ago, he also had the opportunity to travel to Ireland for an exchange semester in Dublin. More recently, Daniel worked as a volunteer teacher in northwest Thailand helping to educate Burmese refugee children on the Thai-Burmese border. Daniel is very much looking forward to returning to Trinity College in a teaching capacity next year.

Michelle Jamieson - nee McDonald (1992-1997). After finishing Year 12 Michelle worked at Stephens Mitre 10 in Colac for five years. In 2002 she had her first child, Brady, followed by Rani in 2004. In 2005 she started riding track work at the Colac racecourse for successful trainer Bill Cerchi. Michelle married Todd Jamieson in 2012 and they have established a successful fencing and gardening business. The family lives in Barongarook and in their spare time love taking the boys camping and spending time with family.

Andrew Senia (1956-1959). It is amazing that Andrew was able to set-up his own legal practice in Geelong in 1978, because whilst attending St Mary’s PS a Nun told him to leave as he would not amount to anything. Fortunately he did not listen to her advice but went his own way and has become a successful lawyer who is also strongly involved in the community. Andrew has been instrumental in commencing and supporting several business and community groups in Geelong. He established the Italian Newspaper “Il Colesseo” and unified the Geelong Italian Community into one Club and was their foundation Chairman and President. Sport is another of Andrew’s interests and with others was able to retain the NBL Basketball Licence for Geelong. Meanwhile he also promoted and was instructor, for the sport of Taekwondo in Geelong, Werribee and Colac. Andrew is the solicitor for the group who made a successful bid for an FM Radio Licence in Geelong. As Andrew is passionate about Geelong he has promoted the area in any way possible to the tourism industry and through business contacts nationally and internationally.

Jim Daniels (1983-1988). After leaving Trinity Jim studied science at the University of Melbourne gaining a bachelor’s degree. Jim moved to New Zealand to study an MSc in Geology at the University of Otago with a field area in Antarctica. Jim then moved back to the University of Melbourne and was awarded a PhD in Geology. Jim was recruited to work with Shell International and spent five years living and working in the Netherlands. Jim moved to Bergen in Norway and is now an Exploration Manager responsible for a team of 15 geoscientists in Statoil. Jim is married with no children and has one much-loved dog.

Debbie Moran -nee McCarthy (1982-1986) After leaving school Debbie spent thirty years worked in the real estate and insurance industries for local Colac businesses whilst also managing the family Electrical Contracting business. Debbie is currently employed by Victorian Group Training as their Office Manager. Debbie is happily living in the Colac district, with her husband Michael and three sons, Hayden graduated Trinity College in 2015 and Lachlan and Isaac are current students of Trinity College.
Where Are They Now?

Jonathan McGuane (1991 - 1996). After completing school, Jonathan had a gap year working in Lorne, then completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours at Deakin University. He went on to obtain his PhD from the University of Melbourne and worked for 9 years as a postdoctoral researcher in Florida and Adelaide, mostly in the field of women’s reproductive health. A strong believer in the adage that learning is a lifelong journey, Jonathan has just completed his first year of Medicine at the Australian National University in Canberra, where he currently resides with his wife Maree and their two sons, Jedediah and Clarence.

Vinny Morrissy (1979-1982). After leaving school Vinny worked for a local business Bryan Bros & Borch, for 12 years in steel fabrication making windmills, 20 years at Bulla Dairies Colac in logistics and cream receival, and is currently working at Walkers Precast Panels Colac. Vinny lives in Colac with his wife Mandy and their three children are also living in Colac.

Charlotte O’Shea - nee Kavenagh (2002-2007), was Trinity Vice-Captain in 2007 and has a Bachelor of Arts (English and Psychology) from Melbourne University and a Diploma of Education from the Australian Catholic University. During her time at University she was Vice President of the Newman College Students’ Club and had the lead role in the Geelong Lyric Theatre production of Hairspray, following many roles in Trinity productions. Charlotte teaches at Ballarat and Clarendon College, and her school life has come full circle, recalling Cheryl Pefanis’ lessons and teaching Year 12 Media this year. In 2017 she will be teaching at St. John Paul II College in Canberra.

Robert O’Shea (2001-2006), was Trinity Vice-Captain in 2006. He has Bachelors (Honours) and Masters degrees in history from Melbourne University, and a Doctorate in Philosophy (History) from Oxford, where he was a Clarendon Scholar, President of the Pembroke College Middle Common Room, and Secretary of the Newman Society and the Australia New Zealand Society. Robert is a civil servant with the Department of Defence in Canberra, and has fond memories of political debates with Bernie Gartland.

Ally Seal (Langdon 2009) and her husband Pat (current staff member) welcomed Clementine on 24th October 2016.

Charlotte Kavenagh (TCC 2002-2007) and Robert O’Shea (TCC 2001-2006) were married at St Brendan’s Church, Coragulac on 17th September 2016. Celebrants for the Nuptial Mass were Fr Bill Uren SJ AO, Rector of Newman College, Melbourne University and Bishop Peter Connors, Emeritus Bishop of Ballarat. Charlotte and Robert honeymooned in Rome.
Contributions Welcome

To make ‘The Triune’ interesting reading for all, contributions are welcome from past students and staff. As there was only a short preparation time for this edition I thank those who handed in their form and helped provide articles when I then asked them to contribute.

I have used my family as an example of how a family could do a write-up, however, solo contributions are also welcome. Perhaps you have had an interesting holiday or worked overseas now or in the past and your story would make interesting reading to those who remember you and even those who don’t know you yet.

Please support ‘The Triune’ so that it will grow and foster good will and fellowship with all former students and staff.

Please send any contributions to: alumni@tcc.vic.edu.au

Mary Day.
Editor, Edition 1.

Where Are They Now?

DAY FAMILY - Mary and Robert Day moved to Colac at the end of 1975 and their family’s association with Trinity College began in 1990 when Michael, their eldest child, enrolled in Year 7. Both Mary and Robert have worked at Trinity College and their four children completed their secondary education at the College.

Michael Day (1990 - 1995) - Michael went to Deakin University in Geelong and graduated with Honours in Construction Management (Quantity Surveying). Newton, Kerr and Partners in Melbourne was where his career as a Quantity Surveyor began. In 2005 he decided to go travelling (for 18 months) and began working for Gardiner & Theobald in London and has been with them ever since. He is now working in their New York office after transferring to initially work on the United Nations Headquarter Reconstruction and lives in Hoboken, New Jersey with his wife Michelle, and their daughter, Vivienne.

Brendan Day (1991 - 1996) - Brendan moved to Melbourne straight after completing Year 12 to begin an Auto Mechanic Apprenticeship. He finished his training and has worked in this field mostly in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. He is now employed at Preston Nissan. For many years Brendan learnt Taekwondo and attained a black belt level (3rd Dan) before changing his sport to Parkour. Over the last couple of years Brendan has also taken up learning the guitar.

Karen Bartlett (1993 - 1998) - Karen completed a Hospitality Traineeship in the Colac area before completing a training course in Office Administration in Melbourne. Karen has worked in administration in car dealerships in Melbourne and Seymour and is currently employed at the DHS office in Seymour. Karen is married to Dan and they have one son, Noah, who is 4.

Judith Day (1998 - 2003) - Judith completed a travel industry course in Melbourne and worked in that industry before returning to Colac in 2005. She has since trained and graduated as a nurse from Deakin University in Geelong. Judith has just purchased her first home and will move in with her son, Simon, who currently attends Sacred Heart School in Colac.

Robert Day (2007 - 2009) - Rob was employed at Trinity College as a part-time gardener for three years. He is now retired and enjoys pottering in his shed and driving his 1949 Plymouth around the local area.

Mary Day (1991 - 2016) - Mary started work at Trinity College when Br Clem Barrett was Principal and Sr Anne Arundell was Deputy. The office in those days was in the old Tuck Wing. Mary has seen many changes and new developments at the College. After working with five different Principals, over a total of nearly 26 years, Mary is now looking forward to retirement but knows she will really miss the staff at Trinity.

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Alumni Registration

Please encourage all former staff and students to register so that they receive the next newsletter. Forms are available at the College or online at www.tcc.vic.edu.au/trinity/alumni

Mary Day.
Editor, Edition 1.