

## 30<sub>YR</sub> Reunion



**PHOTO: L to R**

**Front:** Sean Connolly, Shane O'Driscoll, Blair Wilkinson, Caroline McKay, Emmitt Daly, Rachel Gorman, Kieran Scott, Andrew Clarke, Liam Dowling

**2nd Row:** Sarah Flynn (Cody), Sonia McKenzie (Smith), Jacki Trillo, Sandra O'Neill (McDonald), David Bell, Gina Ellis (Wilkinson), Anne Bathurst (O'Reilly), Sonya Weeks (Davis), Sarah Stuart (Wright), Sally McCoid (Ancell), Tania Wright, Christina Bell (Gilchrist), Sharon Geddis (Doyle)

**3rd Row:** Sheree Davie, Mike O'Brien, Amanda O'Brien (Parker), Andrea Garvin (Cliff), Emma Turnbull (Durning), Fiona Kirton (Robinson), Christine Fix (Ponsonby), Vanessa Blair (Hartnett), Juliette Lister, Theresa Cullen, Michelle Manson (Harper), Melissa Elliot (Scott), Liz Te Raki (Sugrue), Marie O'Neill (Duffield), not looking Brian Daly, Fiona McEwan (Thompson), Rachel Tree (Scully), Richard O'Brien

**Back Row:** Martin Scannell, Dave Scott, standing Darren Wright, Mark O'Connell, Chris Willetts, Jason Russell, Paul Middleditch

A 30 year celebration (since we finished school) was held at Labour Weekend for the class of Roncalli 1984 – 1988.

On Friday night we met at Celtic Clubrooms for a meet and greet and a few jugs of beer. Lots of talking and catching up was held.

Saturday we met at school at 2pm for a tour around the school by Dave Batchelor (the College Archivist) and Mr Pav. It was very exciting to see the changes that had been made to the school and looking thru' past photos.

We then had a blessing in the chapel for all those present and past. We met up at Speights Ale House at night for a

celebration, meal and music. Lots of talking was had, dancing done. It was a great night of memories and laughter which continued in to the late early hours of Sunday morning. Just like the good old days.

Sunday Mass was held at St Thomas's 10.30am followed by a BBQ lunch at Mike and Amanda O'Briens place.

A great, fantastic weekend was held. Lots of catching up, laughter, memories, new friendships made. We haven't changed in 30 years, we have just got better.

# Roncalli 50

*In 1968, on the current College site, there were two schools separated by a notorious green fence. The girls attended the Sacred Heart Girls College which changed its name to Mercy College the following year. The Boys school was St Patrick's High School which was then 30 years old.*

Sacred Heart had a roll of around 270 students, of which almost a quarter were Boarders who resided with the nuns in the Convent. St Pat's had a smaller roll of around 200, all of whom were Day Boys.

The makeup of the schools was quite different from today where most pupils now stay till Form 7 or Year 13. At St Pat's only about half the 5th Form (Year 11) came back for the sixth form, as work was more readily available in the 1960s and you could leave school at 15. Of those who did come back for the 6th Form only a third would continue to do a fifth year after that as an Upper 6A. Those who did were almost all intending to attend University which was seen as an option by fewer students fifty years ago.

As the photos of the two staffs show both schools were dominated by clergy teaching, with Mercy Sisters at Sacred Heart and Marist Fathers at St Pat's. There was a large number of priests



**PREFECTS**  
**Standing:** J. F. Parsons, D. R. Robinson, R. T. Teahen.  
**Sitting:** M. A. Brownie, M. F. Coughlan, K. J. Mulcahy (Head), M. P. Twaddell, P. J. Leishman.



The Very Rev. Father J. Buckley, of Rome, the Superior-General of the Society of Mary, officially opens the two new classrooms at the St. Patrick's High School, Timaru, in March. From left are the Rector (the Rev. Father B. J. O'Brien, S.M.), Father Buckley and prefects of the school, R. Teahen, M. Coughlan, M. Brownie and M. Twaddell.



**STAFF**  
**Back Row:** Mr. C. H. Minifie, Fr. T. J. Ryan, Fr. K. W. McGuire, Mr. A. S. Hayes.  
**Front Row:** Fr. D. F. Hamilton, Fr. B. J. Baillie (vice-Rector), Fr. B. J. O'Brien (Rector), Fr. W. G. Leeming, Fr. F. J. Twiss.



The full St Pat's school 1968.



An aerial photo circa 1968 showing the Basilica, Sacred Heart College, S

# Years Ago

at the Presbytery then; seven teaching priests and 3 or 4 Parish men. Today there are only three Diocesan priests and no Marist Fathers. While there are no Mercy Sisters on the permanent staff today, they still take an active interest in the College from the Craige Avenue Convent which neighbours the College and where they live in retirement. The Mercy Sisters were famed for their musical training and among their pupils who were successful in their music exams in 1968 was a young Michael Houstoun. Both schools took a lot of interest in the activities of their former pupils and the 1968 Sacred Heart magazine included the photo of former pupil Marie Donnelly meeting Senator Robert Kennedy the previous year, seven months prior to his assassination.

Of the buildings in 68, St Pat's consisted only of the original wooden classroom block (where the Smyth block is now) and the newly opened building that year, namely the west end of the current Ashby block. Sacred Heart had of course the since demolished Convent, a three classroom block (where the Chapel and Library are now) and the four classroom Maguire block.

As can be seen there have been major changes in those fifty years but despite that the goals of providing Catholic education for our students still continues strongly.



ge, Sacred Heart Primary and St Pat's.



**WINNERS OF BISHOP LYONS SHIELD**  
From left: B. Spencer (elocution), S. Lambert (religious questions), J. Marsh (impromptu), L. Evans, M. Flanagan (debate), A. Cameron (oratory), M. A. Earl (debate), F. McGrath (junior prepared speech).



**SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES AT TRINITY COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS**  
Standing: C. Benny (Grade VIII, Piano); A. Betts (Grade VIII, Singing); F. Oakley (Grade VIII, Piano); J. Gray (Grade VIII, Violin). Sitting: M. Houstoun (Associate (P.D.) Piano); A. Trezise, (Associate (T.D.) Piano).



Marie Donnelly (captain of the New Zealand Hockey Team) with the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy at Washington Airport, November, 1967.



**1968 STAFF**  
Back row (from left): Sisters M. Claver and Bede, Mrs. B. A. Savage, Sisters M. Natalie and de Sales, Miss I. Spencer, Sister M. Martina, Mrs. A. F. Campbell. Front row: Sister M. Thurson, Mrs. J. L. L. Fry, Sister M. Jerome (Principal), Sisters M. Urenavira and Corina, Mrs. C. MacShirrey.

# THE RONCALLI COLLEGE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

# Better Health. Better Futures. Better Community

Since 1982, Roncalli College has prepared students for a meaningful life beyond the school gates. Within the walls of our school buildings, we inspire our young people with the values and attitudes to serve others, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

There is a growing need for additional space for our sports and physical education (PE) activities, as our gymnasium can no longer accommodate the large number of PE classes and sporting opportunities we provide. 89% of students play organised sport at the College, forging relationships both inside and outside the College, with most of our students playing 2 or 3 different sports. We need an extra practice and playing surface that allows for these numbers and mitigates the disruption of the South Canterbury winter.

Our vision is to transform the Roncalli College campus by constructing the Roncalli College Sports and Community Centre, a state-of-the-art sports and community facility that will enhance student experience and provide countless opportunities for personal development and growth. It will be an integrated, multifunctional centre that reflects the spirit of community and excellence that Roncalli College represents, that meets our students' and community's needs for shared spaces and sports facilities'

The Roncalli College Sports and Community Centre will comprise:

- Large and small meeting spaces for gatherings of students, College groups for cultural activities and community groups. These spaces will help forge stronger ties within the Timaru community.
- An all-weather covered turf facility marked for a variety of sports and physical education activities. This facility will enhance the physical wellbeing and education of our students and support a range of sporting codes. It will also allow students to assemble beyond the school buildings' walls and remain active, still sheltered from the elements.
- Modern changing facilities to support a range of sports

Roncalli College is committed to raising \$1.5 million in order to transform our vision of our Centre into reality. Fund-raising for these facilities is well under way and every little bit can help. Past pupils and members of the wider community who want to know more can go on-line to the Roncalli College website, click on Future Developments and they can then watch a short video walk-through of what the new Sports centre will look like. Donations to the facility can also be made on that page.

