

The Patrician

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SPOCA Annual Dinner - Fri 14 October

The Annual Dinner for St Patrick's College alumni and the social highlight of our SPOCA year will be held at Greenacres Golf Club on Friday 14 October from 6.45pm. With arrangements by Gavin Wayland and his loyal helpers, another great night of fellowship is anticipated.

Of special significance this year will be the Toast to the Society by the Principal of St Ignatius College Geelong, Mr Michael Exton. Michael will enlighten us on the Jesuit Partner Schools concept and how it works at SICG. Cheques will be presented to the principals of both Partner Schools (St Ignatius Geelong and Loyola College Watsonia) to institute the perpetual SPOCA book prize for the student at each college who best exemplifies Ignatian values.

Please contact your year group or complete and return the attached booking form to ensure your part in an enjoyable and memorable evening. Wives, partners or carers are of course most welcome to join you at dinner.

Jesuit Partner School Appeal Progress

Following its launch at the SPOCA AGM and with the June Edition of "The Patrician", the Committee is pleased to advise that half the funding to endow the perpetual book prizes mentioned above has been raised. Thank-you to all SPC alumni who have kindly been able to donate so far.

Our objective is to further secure the memory of our college and its influence on us and to assist the Jesuit Partner Schools (which are similar to St Pats in student characteristics and fees) in strengthening their Jesuit ethos. The book prize will be for students demonstrating (Semper et Ubique) the Ignatian values including courage, endeavour and being a person for others.

Donations to the initiative are also tax deductible and can be made by the New Initiatives Request flier (again attached with this edition of the newsletter) or by contacting our Treasurer Gavin Wayland on 0413 737 146.

Continued Support for Jesuit Mission

Your generosity is also acknowledged for providing funds to allow donations of \$4500 so far this year to the works of Jesuit Mission in India, Timor-Leste, Cambodia and elsewhere.

We have also donated \$1000 on your behalf to the restoration of the Weikert Cottage at Sevenhill. It, like the SPC Tower for the Irish Jesuits, is the oldest building of the Austrian Jesuits in Australia.

If you wish to, donations can be made as indicated in the attached fliers.

Successful 1966 Classmates Reunion

Fifty years had passed since most of that group left school and in many cases since they last met. Feedback to the organisers after the inclusive reunion held on 14 August not far from the old school grounds was that participants rated it a resounding success.

Feelings reported included moving & fascinating, years dropped away, wonderful catch-ups, rekindled friendships, closure on what happened to so-and-so, fantastic and - as that man would say - "speeeeecial".

Organisers Cavanagh, Hynes, McColl and Smith established a cohort of 80, found that sadly 9 are deceased, contacted 50 classmates and enjoyed the company of the 35 who attended. A booklet of photos and lives of most contacted and photos of the day are available from SPOCA.

If you're from the class of 1967 and undaunted by the alleged success above, SPOCA would support any team that wanted to form and arrange a 1967 jubilee. Please contact Kevin Lane, Vin Martin or SPOCA if you could assist.

Communicating with You: Now Simpler

Following the recent survey and a review of SPC Class Lists in the final 40 years of Patrician Yearbooks, your Committee believes there are around 600 living Patrician alumni.

SPOCA has contact details for nearly 400 of us and email addresses for 206 at end-July. Please let us know if you could receive these newsletters via a friend or family member's email and of any other alumni who now might like to re-connect with their school mates.

You may have noticed in the header, the SPOCA/SPC web address, from which the digitised Patrician Yearbooks and other reports are available. As a further step in preserving materials/memorabilia, your Committee is seeking a webmaster to improve and expand its written & pictorial content and to maintain its currency. Please contact any Committee member if you are able to assist.

50 Years of SPOCA since SPC Closure

The year 2018 marks fifty years since the closure of our school and celebrates the continuing vibrancy of SPOCA, some would say against the odds. Your Committee knows that a variety of feelings remain amongst alumni about the closure - some burning hot and others tempered by time.

We would therefore value any guidance you can provide on the aims, type and/or format for an event to recognise that important milestone in the by then 164 years since St Patrick's College was founded. Please mail or email them to an address above or call any of your Committee members.