

# The Patrician

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## The 2018 SPOCA Year finishes on a high!

In 2018, 50 years since our school closed, we have celebrated to the full our good fortune in being educated at Saint Patrick's Jesuit College (SPJC) East Melbourne.

Our celebratory program included:

- St Pat's/Jesuit tour of Ireland
- Anzac Day Mass
- Ongoing reinvigoration of the website ([stpats.xavier.vic.edu.au](http://stpats.xavier.vic.edu.au))
- Annual Dinner attended by 58 Patricians and friends
- 1968 Classmates Reunion attended by 50 Patricians
- Patrician Notables proposal
- A marvellous end of Year Celebration with 90 participants - mass in the Cathedral, a photo at the Tower and lunch at ACU followed by a tour including Cathedral Hall
- An announcement that there will be a SPJC scholarship at ACU in perpetuity as part of the school's legacy – the result of work and contributions by around 50 Patricians and ACU friends
- All this plus ongoing work to support Jesuit missions and Jesuit Partner Schools

Accounting for some overlap there were in excess of 200 old Patricians and friends who participated in the program.

## End of Year Celebration on 24<sup>th</sup> November

It is hard to imagine this day could have been any better!

Gathering at the Cathedral started this fantastic daytrip down memory lane with concelebration by five of our former classmates, attendance by the Principal and Deputy Principal of St Ignatius Geelong together with their 2019 school captains, and an exceptional homily by Fr Greg Bourke.

On to the Tower for a photo opportunity preceded by Fr Michael Head's fascinating insights into the school's history and some special memories recounted by old boys.

A short walk along Lansdowne Street brought us to the St Patrick's campus of ACU for an enjoyable lunch in the delightful south café, the venue for a passionate 'great debate' on whether SPJC's best days are behind us. It became clear that the spirit is alive and well, and that more great days await.

A tour of the Campus led by John Ballard concluded the day – including a well restored Cathedral Hall triggering long held and warm memories, and the SPOCA room nearby already decked out with an initial offering of memorabilia.

A great day indeed! A credit to Kevin Lane as the architect and main organiser, ably assisted by Jim Smith.

## SPJC Scholarship at ACU

The pledging and receipt of donations has now reached a level where the SPOCA Committee is confident of reaching the threshold of \$100,000 for the awarding of a perpetual scholarship with annual funding over 3 years. The first award will be made in late 2019 for commencement in 2020. Opportunity to donate will continue until the end of the financial year ie June 2019. Further donations are welcome not only to enable a scholarship to be awarded every year but, as importantly, to have as many old collegians contributing as possible within their means. Donations have been made at all levels and they are equally valued.

## SPJC Room at ACU

Plans are being made for the fitting out and use of the room at the front of Cathedral Hall. The SPOCA committee has met very happily twice in our new 'home'. It was part of the end of year celebrations and will be featured as part of ACU's participation in 'Open Melbourne' in mid 2019. There are a number of ideas under contemplation, we welcome any suggestions.

## 2019 Activities

The Committee is considering some changes to build on a fantastic 2018 and to make events more appealing to members in 2019. The annual dinner, AGM and ANZAC mass will continue but perhaps the venue and style of the first two could be redesigned. Suggestions welcome.

## SPOCA Memorabilia to Xavier Archives

The 150 items of important SPC / SPOCA memorabilia that we own are now in the professional care of the Xavier College Archives under a Deed of Gift signed at the annual dinner on 10 August. Memorabilia will still be available for SPOCA events, loans and support for Jesuit initiatives.

## Other important activities

Our work with our Jesuit Partner Schools continued with awarding of book prizes and representation at our annual dinner. Our website is going from strength to strength, so get on and explore! [www.stpats.xavier.vic.edu.au](http://www.stpats.xavier.vic.edu.au)

## Recent Alumni Obituaries

We remember with sadness the following SPC alumni who have died since the previous Newsletter of Feb 2018:

6 Sep 18 Costigan Adrian Joseph 41-46

28 Oct 18 McGinty John Canice 40-45

c.18 Nov 18 Dowd John Vincent 50-51