Attempts to bar religion and religious believers from public debate go against the very core of democratic principles, internationally renowned ethicist Professor Margaret Somerville AM said while presenting the 2011 Warrane Lecture.

“More and more people believe that religion has no valid role to play in public life,” Professor Somerville said while presenting the lecture on Wednesday July 20. “At its best, the genius of democracy is that it functions by allowing us to live peacefully together despite our differences, by enabling us to find where we can agree and to hold in creative tension, rather than destructive tension, the issues we disagree about.

“To privilege secularism, as its advocates argue should be done, is to contravene the liberty and equality principles of democracy and to prevent democracy functioning as it should - in short it’s profoundly anti-democratic.”

Professor Somerville, whose lecture was titled “Should religion be evicted from the public square?”, is Samuel Gale Professor of Law, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Founding Director of the Centre of Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University in Montreal.

She listed a range of issues that would be affected if the influence of religion were to be denied in public debate, including euthanasia, abortion, “designer babies”, cloning, human embryo stem cell research, same-sex marriage, the creation of embryos from same-sex adults, proposals for “manimals” (embryos with both human and animal genes), capital punishment, business ethics and so on.

“These issues involve some of our most important individual and collective social-ethical-legal values,” she said. “That is true, in part, because many of these issues are connected with respect for life, and with birth or death, the two events around which we have always formed our most important individual and collective values...

“Searching for a ‘shared ethics’ – is crucial in pluralistic, multicultural, multi-religious, secular, post-modern, democratic societies to find what we have in common ethically so that we can experience ourselves as belonging to the same moral community.

“As those experiences accumulate we will be more able to find common ground than we can in any other way. But to do that will require the presence of goodwill and the absence of hostility towards religion in the public square.”

Professor Somerville argued that we must “cross the secular/religious divide, the science/religion divide and the divide between religions” if we are to find a “shared ethics”.

She said the starkest examples of refusals to cross these divides were coming from fundamentalist religious people and the “fundamentalist neo-atheists”, such as Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Michel Onfray, and Sam Harris.

“Like all fundamentalists the neo-atheists, first, want to impose their views on everyone else,” she said. “One of the most egregious current examples, which is an extension and putting into practice of their ‘religion has no place in the public square’ approach, is that physicians have no right to respect for their freedom of conscience and their ethical and moral values.

“The neo-atheists would like to reduce religion to nothing more than a personal fantasy or superstition. But that’s not realistic. It’s an impossible dream on their part. At best it will fail, at worst it will do serious harm – it will exacerbate the acrimony of the values conflicts and make it more likely, not less likely, that religion will become a focus of serious conflict.

“Also, because culture and religion are linked, even within democratic multicultural pluralistic Western societies it will increase the number and intensity of the current values clashes and may contribute to culture wars.”

Professor Somerville said that one way of trying to cross some of our current divides would be to see whether we can find some “ethical universals” that are common to all people whether or not they are religious and, if so, no matter which religion they espouse.

Continued on page 3
Change of the guard
All of us associated with Warrane College are sincerely grateful for the outstanding contribution of its third Master, Emeritus Professor AG (Tony) Shannon AM. Tony, who became Master on February 1, 2001, retired at the start of 2011. During his time as Master the College entered a new phase. This was highlighted by the implementation of the “Warrane 2020” project, which entailed a comprehensive refurbishment of the College. Each floor was upgraded, starting with the 7th in 2000 and finishing with Ground in 2010, to create modern, functional and home-like facilities. Under Tony’s leadership the College’s academic profile reached a new level. He oversaw the organisation of regular seminars and the publication of a large number of College Monographs among other academic papers. It was Tony’s idea to start the publication of an Annual Report detailing key aspects of college life.

Religion and the public square
It was a privilege to host internationally renowned ethicist Professor Margaret Somerville AM FRSC, who delivered the 2011 Warrane Lecture. The lecture addressed an important issue facing society: “Should religion be excluded from the public square?” Prof Somerville, a dual citizen of Australia and Canada, is Samuel Gale Professor of Law, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and Founding Director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

The lecture was attended by a record number of guests among them members of Parliament, the judiciary and makers of public opinion. An expanded version of the lecture was published as a Warrane Monograph which is available for download or through the College office.

Helping others and helping ourselves
As part of our service to the wider community, Warrane residents took part in regular visits to Mount St Joseph Nursing Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Randwick. They spent time looking after the elderly, helping them at meals or simply listening to them. The students also provided help carrying out basic maintenance tasks in and around the nursing home. Throughout the year residents were also involved in Task Force and Night Patrol, initiatives of the St Vincent the Paul Society.

During the July break a dozen residents spent one week in Ipswich, Queensland, carrying out flood relief with a local NGO. Some months later, in November, a larger group of residents travelled to the town of Mauaba in East Timor, where they built a toilet facility at an orphanage run by Carmelite Nuns. Thanks to the new facility the nuns will be able to increase the capacity of the orphanage.

In October the Parliament of New South Wales agreed to a motion recognising the volunteering projects of the College both in New South Wales and abroad. The motion, which is recorded in Hansard, is neutral, as its advocates claim – it’s not. It too is a belief system used to witness the emergence of a very large number and range of secular religions binding their adherents through common belief and ideology. They are expressed as secularism, which, more and more, has become “aggressive secularism”.

“Environmentalism is at least a secondary religion for more and more people” – but even that has its disbelievers and critics! In short, we are witnessing the emergence of a very large number and range of secular religions. “None of these “isms” is harmful in itself, but they are harmful to finding a shared world that we want to inhabit – as, for instance, Dawkins does with scientists - to deny any space for spirituality and traditional religion in the public square and replace those with secularism, the most encompassing religion of all, is a basket holding all the other religions in it.”

“Without doubt a characteristic of Warrane is its personal touch, and that is how we prefer to connect with people, face to face. At the same time, we are embracing the means available to keep in touch when a ‘good old chat’ is not possible. The College’s Facebook page is being updated regularly with details of upcoming events and news items from our website; it is also a good place to see photographs of college life. If you are on LinkedIn you can join the Warrane College Association group, which will enable you to reconnect with Warrane old boys and will keep you informed of suitable events. If you have joined the Twitterverse you can also follow us there. But when you get a chance, drop by and say hi!”

Continued from page 1

“Might we be able to say that these ethical universals are so widely shared over such a long period of time across so many different cultures that they can be taken as characteristics of being human — that is, they are innate to being human?” she asked.

“The problems are that we can no longer assume a shared knowledge - a cohesive core of common information is shrinking - and we are becoming more polarized in our attitudes, and that’s undermining social cohesion.”

Professor Somerville argued that the new atheism was a kind of religion. She said it would not be surprising that humans experience an inner space that needs to be filled and if not filled by religion in its traditional mode then it will need to be filled by something else that can function in a similar manner.

“I suggest that atheism is one example of what religious studies scholars Karnig Papian and Paul Nathanson have called ‘secular religions’; and that this is because they aim to find meaning in life.”

“Values surveys have found that a longing for transcendence is a rapidly escalating phenomenon in our increasingly individualistic Western societies.”

“It’s indisputably true that humanism and atheism function as secular religions binding their adherents through common belief and ideology. They are expressed as secularism, which, more and more, has become ‘aggressive secularism’.”

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**Ipswich: After the Floods**

TWELVE Warrane residents took part in a work camp in Queensland where they assisted with the recovery in flood-affected areas. They were located in Ipswich, where many houses had been completely submerged by the floods early in 2011. The Warrane group travelled by bus to Ipswich, leaving College at 5:00 am and arriving at 7:00 pm, before getting up for work at 7:00 am the next day.

There were many houses in Ipswich which were still damaged from the floods six months earlier. The scale of the damage was confronting, according to Miguel Paredes, Assistant Dean of Warrane and leader of the group.

“The success of the Workcamp depended to a large degree on the skill and expertise of Michael Greenwell, a builder and father of Old Boy Tom Greenwell, and Andrew Quinn, a plumber and friend of the College. Andrew and Michael were with the group from start to finish,” said project foreman and Old Boy Andrew Watson. “I think I learnt a lesson at the orphanage which I’ll never forget.”

**Success in Timor Leste**

A GROUP of Warrane residents returned home in time for Christmas 2011 after a successful Workcamp in Timor Leste. The group of 17 had left Australia shortly after the examination period to undertake a challenging project – the construction of a large toilet block in just three weeks. The work done by the Warrane group to repair the devastated houses included internal demolition and removal of plaster to make way for new walls and ceilings. In addition, the houses were thoroughly cleaned and sprayed. The Warrane residents were told that due to their work on multiple houses, the Ipswich residents of those homes could move back in very soon.

The Ipswich City Council was very appreciative of the work done by the residents. Mayor Paul Pisasale personally thanked the group and presented each Warrane resident with an individual signed certificate of appreciation. The Warrane group was also told that they were very welcome to come back and work again in the future. The project was also reported in the Queensland Times.

Following a full week of intense work, it was time for the Warrane residents to get back on the bus and return to Sydney. After another all-day bus trip, they returned home, reinvigorated for the second semester.

**Samoa Group Hard at Work**

FIFTEEN Warrane residents volunteered for a work camp in Samoa which began on November 19, 2010. They barely had time to contact home for much of the time they were there – they had been leaving their accommodation at 7.30 am and returning at 7.45 pm.

“There was very little time to unwind but we did take a longer break at midday to avoid some of the heat,” said Dean Arthur Escamilla.

The group worked on two major projects. The first involved the repair and painting of the roof of the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Apia, which was timely given the soon-to-arrive rain and cyclone season. The second involved setting up computer laboratories in two schools and improving the computer literacy of the teachers and students. For this purpose 40 computers were donated to the project including 25 by the University of New South Wales.

“The boys worked hard under extreme climatic conditions,” said project foreman and second-year computer engineering student Matthew Sabyd. The then College Master, Professor Tony Shannon, also took part in the project. The residents worked to a tight schedule and returned home on December 13.

The Warrane residents on the Samoa Workcamp

Residents with children from the orphanage at Maubara, East Timor

The finished toilet block in Maubara

Old Boy Andrew Watson working in a flood-damaged house in Ipswich

Third-year resident Truman Biro with children from the orphanage at Maubara, East Timor

Oli O’Sullivan pouring concrete in East Timor

Second-year resident Roy Atherton in Ipswich

Mayor Paul Pisasale and Warrane residents on the Samoa Workcamp

The Ipswich residents of those homes could move back in very soon.
Michael Traill AM

WARRANE residents were encouraged to pursue social goals in their future careers — rather than mere profits — by one of Australia’s most influential philanthropists, Mr Michael Traill AM, who spoke in the College’s main common room on August 24. Mr Traill is an experienced investment adviser and the founding CEO of Social Ventures Australia (SVA), an independent non-profit organisation which supports the work of many charitable organisations. One experiment he spoke of was the “No Dole” project, created by the Beacon Foundation. It is now in 124 schools around the country and 14,000 kids take part in the No Dole program. “We know that program is working,” Michael said, “because the school retention rates in these schools, which are typically the toughest schools in the country, are typically 11 to 13 per cent better than peer-group schools.”

“At SVA we connect the dots — we access funding, we access networks, we help them to be very clear and disciplined and accountable. This is all about the planning and the programming for the business students applying business disciplines to social change.

“Social entrepreneurs, back them in the right way, help them to grow and they can help to change the world.”

The other example that Michael spoke about was the $165 million acquisition of 659 ABC Childcare Centres. SVA put together a capital network, we help them to be very clear and disciplined and help them to rise above negative publicity.

Peter said that he believes his great strength is that he never tires of doing something meaningful to do with your life and something to believe in. It’s an attitude that I commend very strongly to you.’

Mr Karl Morris

THE SPEAKER at Warrane’s inaugural dinner for Session One, executive chairman of stockbroking firm Ord Minniet Ltd. Mr Karl Morris, gave Warrane’s residents some pointers on how to find happiness. During a forthright and down-to-earth address on March 2, he said that the most important things in life were to find “someone to love,” something meaningful to do with your life and something to believe in.

He believed that the most important thing in gaining employment was a good education. Even though he was now the Executive Chairman of Ord Minniet, he tried to do something at least twice a year to improve himself, including a course at Harvard University.

“You really should do something all the time to further your education,” he said. “Consider it as investing in yourself. If you ever have the opportunity to do any kind of course at Harvard or Yale or one of those top American universities, do it. It’s just another world. They are just magnificent. They are full of intellectual people from around the world. I don’t network — I make friends, firm and strong friends. And it helps you keep your mind going.”

But over and above everything, he told residents: “You need something to believe in. You need that moral code. The people who do poorly have no moral code. They have no moral code and nothing to believe in.”

Paddy Howard

FORMER Rugby international player and coach, Patrick (“Paddy”) Howard encouraged residents to make the best of every opportunity that comes their way, during and after university.

“The idea is that people are daunted by something. If someone wants to give you a go, do it — say yes.”

Speaking on May 25, Paddy spoke about the rugby career that saw him follow in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps to become a Wallaby, playing 20 tests for Australia between 1993 and 1997.

Noting that he was “not a big bloke,” he said: “I tried to still try to ‘throw myself at a brick wall’ if necessary and that attitude had helped him to succeed on and off the field.”

Peter Harris

IDEAS man Peter Harris certainly delivered on his promise of helping residents learn to generate creative ideas when he spoke at Warrane on May 18. Peter showcased many different systems that he and others have used over the years to help them to come up with new concepts to solve pressing problems, both in the commercial world and in personal life. He urged residents to never lose an opportunity to network as widely as possible.

Networking is so important,” he said. “Make friends all the time because you never know where it might lead.”

He also emphasised the need to take control of your own life. “If you don’t take control of your life, someone else will,” he said, “and guess what they might do for you? A lot.”

Peter said that he believes his great strength is that he never tires of coming up with new ideas (which include many ideas for board games that he has developed) and the fact that he is “terminally cheerful.”

His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC

The visit by the Archbishop of Sydney, His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC on Wednesday, September 21, began with a very special Mass in the College chapel, during which he baptised resident Truman Mak.

Afterwards, the Cardinal shared a formal dinner with staff, residents and a number of distinguished guests, including the former President of the NSW Legislative Council, Mr John (Johno) Johnson. During an informal get-together in the main common room he answered many questions on subjects including the relationship between social issues and the law, the impact of the Greens’ policies on society, human freedom, and the Church’s ability to rise above negative publicity.

Mr John Pascoe AO CVO

WHEN the Chief Federal Magistrate of Australia, Mr John Pascoe AO CVO, returned to Warrane a decade after his first visit, he encouraged residents to spend their lives in the service of others. Speaking on August 17, he paid tribute to Warrane and the first head of Opus Dei in Australia, Monsignor John Masso, who accompanied the College’s main common room on August 24.

“When I visited the College I was in the company of Fr John Masso. He was a truly great man, I think. He spent most of his life in the service of other people. He was the happiest and most contented of people — a fine example of those who spend a good part of their lives in the service of their fellow man.”

He always radiated joy and optimism and gave good advice, but was very demanding. He sought to find holiness and meaning in life at every moment of every day. It’s an attitude that I commend very strongly to you.”

Mr Pascoe who is head of the the largest federal court in Australia and former Deputy Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, said that one of the things he sees every day in court is the tendency to “enlarge our lives in entertainment and looking for things to do, rather than concentrating on what life is really about”.

During his talk, he gave residents an insight into the growing problem of people trafficking around the world. He said that: “Although many people think that slavery has been abolished, it is ‘alive and well and living on us every day’.”

Mr Pascoe said he was very concerned about the breakdown of marriage in countries like Australia and the high number of children who grow up in single parent households. Growing up for these children, he said, can be “really, really difficult.” The problem of social alienation was compounded by the trend of “generations of families living on welfare”.

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Peter Harris delivering his creative workshop

Paddy Howard addressing Warrane residents

Mr John Pascoe AO CVO talking at Warrane’s inaugural dinner

His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC

baptising Truman Mak

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Mr John Pascoe AO CVO talking at Warrane’s inaugural dinner

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baptising Truman Mak
1. High School Students attending the UniMe program at Warrane
2. The inaugural Warrane catapult competition
3. The Third Floor Iron Chef Team
4. St Patrick’s Day Celebrations in the College
5. 2nd year Engineering student Rohan Stocker helping out in Ipswich
6. Guest Speaker Deanna Lane demonstrating some finer points of etiquette
7. Residents with the family of 1st year Engineering student Jack McRae in Young
8. Medicine Faculty Dinner guest Dr. Raoul Pope, neurosurgeon, addressing residents
9. A packed house for the Parents’ Day concert
10. 2nd year Engineering student Pat Allen with his family during Parents’ Day
11. Adrian Morris and Aidan Jowett (both 1st year Engineering) performing in The Death Trap
12. Tim Volk (3rd year Engineering) performing on the College’s new piano
13. Roy Atherton (2nd year Engineering) receiving the Most Dedicated Sportsman Award
14. First Year Residents enjoying O Week
15. Guest Will Bird inspires residents with his mountain climbing tales
Vekram Sambasivam

ONE thing that Warrane has always encouraged residents to do is to go beyond their own degree studies and make the most of their time at university. Head Academic Tutor Vekram Sambasivam is one resident who has done exactly that.

In the six years that he has been at UNSW, Vekram has been a president of the University’s Medical Society, a student rep on the Faculty of Medicine Board, an academic and floor tutor at Warrane, carried out practical work in Australia, continued on for months because so many injuries and chronic conditions that had been encountered many cases of both acute and chronic conditions and he continues to this day to be as yet undiagnosed. When he was given the position of Program Coordinator of the School of Medicine, he was able to do this year and I’m glad I took the opportunity even though many people told me I would be far too busy or that I was overcommitting.

“As far as I’m concerned being busy allows you to be more effective and efficient and as such you use your time wisely and can achieve a lot.”

During the year, Scott found time for some community work, including Medico meetings, events and fundraisers; the Medical Student’s Aid Project (MSAP); Pathosis, Grand Rounds as well as debating with the campus debating society.

He also managed to fit in some social sport with a number of different campus societies, and some regular time in the pool and at the gym. He says he hopes to get back into tennis and waterpolo, which he played at school, next year.

In College, Scott was involved in our Casino Night, Band Night, O Week activities and the Warrane Ball.

“They were all great highlights of my year,” Scott said. “I also met a lot of great people through College. I’m sure we will have lasting friendships.”

Scott is looking forward to his course over the next few years. He says he “loved the clinical aspect” of the course and is looking forward to exploring that further. But he is not sure about his long-term goals at present.

“My involvement in MSAP this year made me wonder about doing some doctors-without-borders work in a developing country,” he said. “My specific interest is in anatomy may point toward surgery or emergency work.”

College Scholars

The Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, Professor Steven Schwartz, presented Scholars Medallions to 35 Warrane residents this year in recognition of their achievement of a distinction average in their subjects in 2010. Professor Schwartz has served as Vice-Chancellor of Brunel University in London and of Murdoch University in Perth.

“Speaking in the main common room after the presentation, he expressed his concerns about the future of apparently carefully thought, sometimes in critical situations where people’s lives were at risk. He said that universities needed to do much more to equip students with “practical wisdom.” The College Scholars were:

Andrew Samaan (Sumi) /2006-2008/
Since leaving Warrane, Andrew has been working in Bonn as an intern at a federal institute in the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which is responsible for international development cooperation. He says the institution “works closely with counterparts in all member states around the world, including democracy crises, climate change, poverty and regional conflicts”. After finishing up in this position in August 2012, he will go back to university to complete his final two years.

David Arias /2008/
After returning to Colombia from Australia, David completed his degree in Journalism (Social Communication). After working for one year in radio projects in many companies, he travelled to Argentina to complete a Master in Communication. On his return to Colombia at the end of June this year he was appointed to a position with responsibility for creating a national strategy in Communication to help stem the brain drain of graduates from Colombia. In this position he will be under the Minister of Education for the next five years. He travels around the country, visiting 30 cities. David married his wife, Camila, last year and they have a daughter, Ana María. They are also expecting another baby in March.

Allen Tam /2000-2003/
A graduate of Aerospace Engineering, Allen is now Maintenance Strategist and Planner of SL-Car, working on XtraNet Network Integrity and Facilities Management. After completing his BE, he enrolled in a PhD in Asset Management and Reliability Engineering at Monash University. He lives in Melbourne and is married to Kylie. He also lectures at RMIT and Monash University in Maintenance and Reliability. He says that Warrane’s focus on academic excellence and its cultural diversity has played a very important part in his personal and professional development.

Jude has returned to the Seychelles where he has recently gained his architect’s license and very recently become engaged. He has set up his own business, AMMA Architecture, which stands for “the unconscious or the true inner self of an individual” but is also Latin for “animating principles”. If business goes well Jude says he will be back in Sydney for his Masters before long. He has bought a Mini Moke car and recommends them. He says they will cost a fortune soon, and “there’s plenty in Australia”.

Richard is working for Ensemble Partners as a Management Manager and is married to Karolina. When we contacted him he was planning a pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and Egypt at the beginning of 2012.

Alex Perrottet /2006-2009/
Alex has been working at the Pacific Media Centre in Auckland, and is due to complete a Masters in Communications Studies at AUT University in June. He has just completed a Pacific Media Freedom Report published in the Pacific Journal Review, which was a “report card” on each country’s press freedom status. He is also helping out with Glennon School in Auckland as he is travelling to the still-shaking Christchurch in January with a group of volunteers to help out.

Thomas McManus /aka Rove/ /2008-2009/
After completing his degree at the end of first semester, 2011, Thomas decided to begin a Masters in PR and Advertising at UNSW. In the meantime he has been working on the Two Islands north of Darwin, helping to build a sustainable garden project as part of Matt Hayden’s Clean Ocean Day. He has been working on the project with another old boy, Hugo Reynolds. Part of the program is to help mentor young men who are allowed leave from school to work in the garden each week. Thomas says that working with them with skills that will hopefully assist them in gaining apprenticeships when they leave school.

Hugo Reynolds /2008-2009/
After completing his Medical Science degree, Hugo (as mentioned above) has been working with Tom McManus the Two Islands on Matt Hayden’s Charity, Hayden Way.

Thomas Andrew Bolton /2004-2008/
Thomas Andrew Bolton graduated from Christchurch Boys’ High School in 2004 and went on to complete a Bachelor of Commerce at Victoria University and a Bachelor of Laws at Victoria University of Wellington. After graduating in 2008, he returned to Christchurch and began working for the Northern Trust Co. He then moved to Las Vegas and is now a financial advisor at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He is married to his wife, Libby, and they have two children, Harry and Ruby.

Nacional Wong /2007-2009/
After returning to Singapore in March 2010, Nicholas carried out graduate research in the Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R). He worked on an issue related to optical fibre networks, which he says helped to inspire him to select optical communications as a potential PhD field. On September 14, 2010, he also enlisted in Basic Military Training as part of his two-year National Service stint, which he says changed his life forever. Four months later, he graduated from basic training and was selected to attend Officer Cadet School (OCS).

Nick Wong with his family
After what he says was the longest nine months of his life, he finally graduated from OCS and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer on October 15, 2010, with the rank of Second Lieutenant (2LT). Since then, he has been posted back to his alma mater, the SAFITI Military Institute (SAFTI MI) in the Institute headquarters, where he leads a team of administrators. His department handles training and was selected to attend Officer Cadet School (OCS).

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“awesome to visit the academy he has set up there.” In December, he undertook a PhD at the AGSM in 1997 and then studied at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. They have two sons: Mateus and Michael. In 2011, Peter became an Associate Professor of Management in the University of Western Australia School of Business. He is the Course Leader of the AGSM Exec MBA Managerial Skills course and conducts research on motivation, leadership and career success. Peter loves working so near to Warrane as it enables occasional visits back home to college.

Andrew Murray /1997/ is teaching at Redfield College at Dural in Sydney, where another old boy, James Burfitt is now principal and was at the wedding reception, and “in very good form”.

Martin Cullen is working as an intensive care specialist at Westmead and Hornsby hospitals. He completed his Physician training in 2008 and has worked in Infectious Diseases. Martin married Sarah Saccasan in 2010 and they have a beautiful daughter, Olivia Rose Flair Cullen. He still keeps in contact with some Old Boys, recently training up with Doctors Dave Hunter, John Limbers and James O’Sullivan. He says he would love to touch base with other Old Boys, particularly from the ‘90s.

Rod Cox gave a very thought provoking talk on climate change to the Warrane Old Boy Association in Sydney earlier this year.

Alistair Nicholas is still living in Beijing with his family and his professional career continues to go from strength to strength. He is now President at AC Capital Strategic Consulting, Executive Vice President, Asia Pacific at Weber Shandwick and a member of the Board of Advisors at China Global Risk Council.

Sam Lynch /1994-1996/ who many old boys will remember as a long-time assistant in Warrane’s office has advanced in his studies at the Catholic seminary in the Sydney archdiocese and was ordained a deacon on December 10th at St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney.

Peter Morris /1981/ has been married to Tricia for 26 years and has two sons, Adrian (who is now a resident of Warrane while he studies Aerospace Engineering) and Daniel, who is finishing year 9 and also looking forward to staying at Warrane while he is at Uni. Peter is working in earthmoving and drainage, specialising in sewer connections. Despite the passing of 30 years, he says he still remembers much of his time at Warrane. He says he and Tricia are very happy to see Adrian at Warrane and “we never cease to be impressed with those unwilling to travel the St Mary’s website (stmaryswestmelbourne.org.au).”

Eugene says he is always keen to hear from other former Warrane students in Hong Kong (eugentang180@ hotmail.com).

Andrews Wythes /2008-2011/ has taken up a Graduate Environmental Scientist role at a medium size consultancy, Angus Australia, in Sydney’s inner west. As an Environmental Scientist he deals with clients ranging from “Sydney’s average residential property to multi-national developer such as Mirvac and Mirvac”. He has been working with soil, water, air and contaminated land. He has also been pursuing his passion for soccer, completing a ‘Youth Coaching Licence and planning to undertake the Senior Coaching Licence in 2012’. He has also been asked to undertake the first step in the professional coaching pathway, the LC, in 2012.

Andrew Tan /2006-2008/ FOR the past couple of years, Andrew has been travelling and working in Brunei on a large tunneling project, Legacy Way. It is a 4 km tunnel with two approaches on both ends totalling 4.1 km in length. He has also been travelling to Hong Kong to assist on a tender design for an underground train station for the Hong Kong government. While he was there, he met up with other Warrane old boys – “Keith, Luca and Taz”. In September 2011, he married Joelle in St Simon Church, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. Andrew says our famed old boy Willie Wong was at the wedding reception, and “in very good form.”

Steve Dejong /2001-2003/ PURSUING a dual LL.M degree from New York University (NYU) and the National University of Singapore, with the help of a scholarship from NYU. On graduation in May, 2012, he will be awarded LL.M’s from both universities, with a specialisation in international law. Steve says the plan at that stage is to return to New York for the New York Bar Exam in July, 2012, although that step is not yet confirmed. He is currently based in Singapore. Steve was married to Melissa Emery in June 2009 at the Mary McKillop Chapel in Thredbo, NSW. He says he is “very much enjoying married life, although no children as yet, but hopefully not too far away.” Steve says he is thoroughly enjoying his postgraduate study and thinking long and hard about the next move forward. “It might not be back to a big law firm,” he says.

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Peter Heslin /1989-1991/ was a 7th form senior tutor. He undertook a PhD at the AGSM in 1997 and then studied at the University of Toronto from 2000-2003. In 2003, Peter married Andreia Da Silva (from Brazil) and began work as an Assistant Professor of Management at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. They have two sons: Mateus and Michael. In 2011, Peter became an Associate Professor of Management in the University of Western Australian School of Business. He is the Course Leader of the AGSM Exec MBA Managerial Skills course and conducts research on motivation, leadership and career success. Peter loves working so near to Warrane as it enables occasional visits back home to college.

Martin Duncan /1983/ works as an investment analyst in Sydney. He is happily married with three children, and is a keen cyclist and musician.

John McMahan keeps busy managing four Sydney schools in both Bathurst and the inner-west. He is pictured with members of his family who returned home from all over the globe. “James and Sarina were home from London, Annellia was visiting from interstate (Victoria) with her husband and four boys, Marie-Claire lives and works as an interior designer in the eastern suburbs, Rosalie has just completed Year 12 and would like to teach. Paul is a Chartered Accountant, David is studying HR and Bethany has just completed primary school.” John says his alumni from the Graduate Management School (AGSM) describe him and his wife, Ruth, as “a high yielding joint venture!”


Graham Curd /1973-1976/ is living in Singapore and is Westpac’s senior Legal Counsel for Asia.

Sean Dennis /1977-1982/ visited Sydney in 2011 and caught up with former staff member David Bolton, along with, another old boy, Martin Duncan. Sean is now living in Cambridge in semi-retirement. His three children are attending schools there. He moved back there after some years living in Bermuda. Previously to that he spent many years working in London and New York, having completed an MBA at Harvard. He is still playing plenty of sports and is “as enthusiastic as always.”

Gary McGrath /1974-1976/ is now a Senior Counsel in Sydney and is much in demand as a public speaker.

Fr Max Polak /chaplain 1976-1978 & 1995-2001/ is in Melbourne where he has been serving as parish priest of St Mary Star of the Sea Church West Melbourne. This church has the reputation of being one of the largest and architecturally most significant church buildings in Australia. Fr Max succeeded our former Master, now Fr Joe “Doc” Martin, in this role in 2007. He says he always keen to hear from “old boys” and is happy to give the “royal tour” of St Mary’s to any who happen to be visiting Australia’s no 2 city. He also points out that for those unwilling to travel the St Mary’s website (stmaryswestmelbourne.org.au) has much to offer in terms of visual images.

Sergio Maercos /1971/ is a motivational lecturer who travels extensively to give talks on the Catholic faith for the instruction of converts and for adult faith formation groups. There will also be a book with the text of the talks. John McMahan keeps busy managing four Sydney schools in both Bathurst and the inner-west. He is pictured with members of his family who returned home from all over the globe. “James and Sarina were home from London, Annellia was visiting from interstate (Victoria) with her husband and four boys, Marie-Claire lives and works as an interior designer in the eastern suburbs, Rosalie has just completed Year 12 and would like to teach. Paul is a Chartered Accountant, David is studying HR and Bethany has just completed primary school.” John says his alumni from the Graduate Management School (AGSM) describe him and his wife, Ruth, as “a high yielding joint venture!”


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Warrane Tie’s Rising Popularity

THE WARRANE tie is rising in popularity, particularly among Aussie politicians. Quite a few have worn the tie in public in recent years. The latest is the NSW Minister for Citizenship and Communities and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, The Hon. Mr Victor Dominello. In a letter to the Dean and Acting Master, Arthur Escamilla, Mr Dominello thanked the College for the tie and said: “You will be pleased to know I wore it at Parliament last Tuesday. I feel I am now a part of an elite group particularly considering Mike Baird is often seen wearing his Warrane College tie.” Mr Dominello added that it was an “honour” to address “students of such good character”.

“It is evident that you and your colleagues at Warrane are instilling values that enrich the lives of your students and the people they come in contact with.”

Growing Business in the Bush

BUSINESS mentor and company director Ashley McKertich spoke to Warrane residents on March 20 about his experiences assisting the redevelopment of a Northern Territory Aboriginal community. Ashley, who is the CEO and Director of Zenbuu Pty Ltd, a web service that seeks to help owners and operators of small and

Opportunity for the World’s Poor

DAVID BUSSAU AM, whose charitable foundation has loaned poor people all over the world a total of $700 million, shared his ideas with Warrane residents on Wednesday, September 9. The founder of Opportunity International Australia which serves 2.8 million people mostly in developing countries, said that the real transformation of

Building the Burj Khalifa

THE HIGHLIGHT of Warrane’s Engineering Faculty Dinner on March 8 was a talk by engineer Dr James Aldred who gave residents an in-depth look at the technical difficulties encountered in building the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building. Working with GHD Global, Dr Aldred was involved in the

REGISTRATION AND DONATIONS

WARRANE needs the support of its Old Boys and friends to continue providing a family-like, supported environment for students coming to UNSW. One way to support the College is to join the Warrane Association and keep up to date with College events, especially Old Boys events. Registration for the Warrane Association can be completed below.

Donations to the College can also be made below, or by visiting the home page and clicking on Donate Now. We are specifically fundraising for the following items for the College:
• The new lifts recently installed in the College
• New scholarships for residents, especially rural students
• Renovations to the College Chapel
• Framing for all the College photographs from 1970-2010, which will be displayed in the corridor outside the College office.

If you would like to contribute to a specific project, please mention so below. If you would like to change your contact details, please email info@warrane.unsw.edu.au.