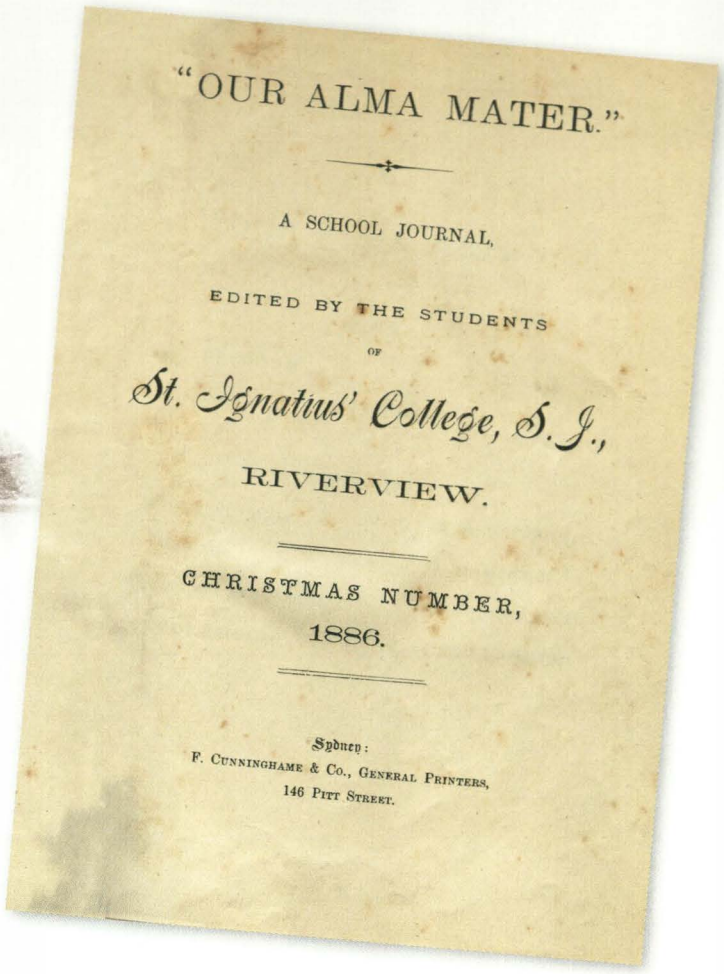
SAINT IGNATIUS' COLLEGE, RIVERVIEW

Our Alma Mater

In its 125th Anniversary year, *Our Alma Mater* is the culmination of work by many people at the College, including teachers, coaches, Housemasters and students. Production of our yearbook is a team effort, with the final editorial and design challenges being met by members of the Editorial Team.

The first edition of *Our Alma Mater* was published in 1886 (front cover and right). Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview in the Wilds, 1886 (below) and a recent aerial view.





"OUR ALMA MATER."

A SCHOOL JOURNAL,

EDITED BY THE STUDENTS

OF

St. Ignatius' College, S. J.,

RIVERVIEW.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER,

1886.

Sydney:
F. Cunninghame & Co., General Printers,
146 Pitt Street.

Editorial Team
(in alphabetical order)

Peter Barker, Topher Boehm,
Peter Herington & Anthony Renshaw

Design & Production Assistance

Steven Foster, Tenpoint;
Printed by IntoPrint



A.M.D.G.

Our Alma Mater



OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF *OUR ALMA MATER*

Mrs Catherine Hobbs-Faulkener, College Archivist

This year, *Our Alma Mater* celebrates its 125th Anniversary. The first edition was produced in December 1886 and is now one of the oldest Australian literary periodicals still in existence. Unlike student-edited periodicals at other schools, *Our Alma Mater* was first published when the College was still in its infancy, giving us an almost complete picture of the growth and development of a great educational institution.

The first issue of *Our Alma Mater* consisted of a mere 43 pages. It chronicled the sporting activities of the College, which included, football, rowing, cricket, rifle shooting, athletics, swimming, handball & lawn tennis. It also included a brief account of the formation and operation of the debating club and an account of the College Speech Day from the *Freeman's Journal*.

That first *Our Alma Mater* also included some early photographs of the College buildings and grounds, which provide a fascinating insight into the facilities offered to the students at that time. The volume finished with an image of the 'New College', which was more a dream than a reality. The fact that this image was included in the first *OAM* and was also used on the cover of several early volumes (see opposite), signifies how the students and Jesuits alike shared the dream of a grand Catholic college.

Although the dream was not realised in the way that it was envisaged in the first volume in 1886, the 125 years of the Alma document the growth and development of the College and the Riverview community. It was only natural that as the College grew, so did *Our Alma Mater*.

What was Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview like in 1886?

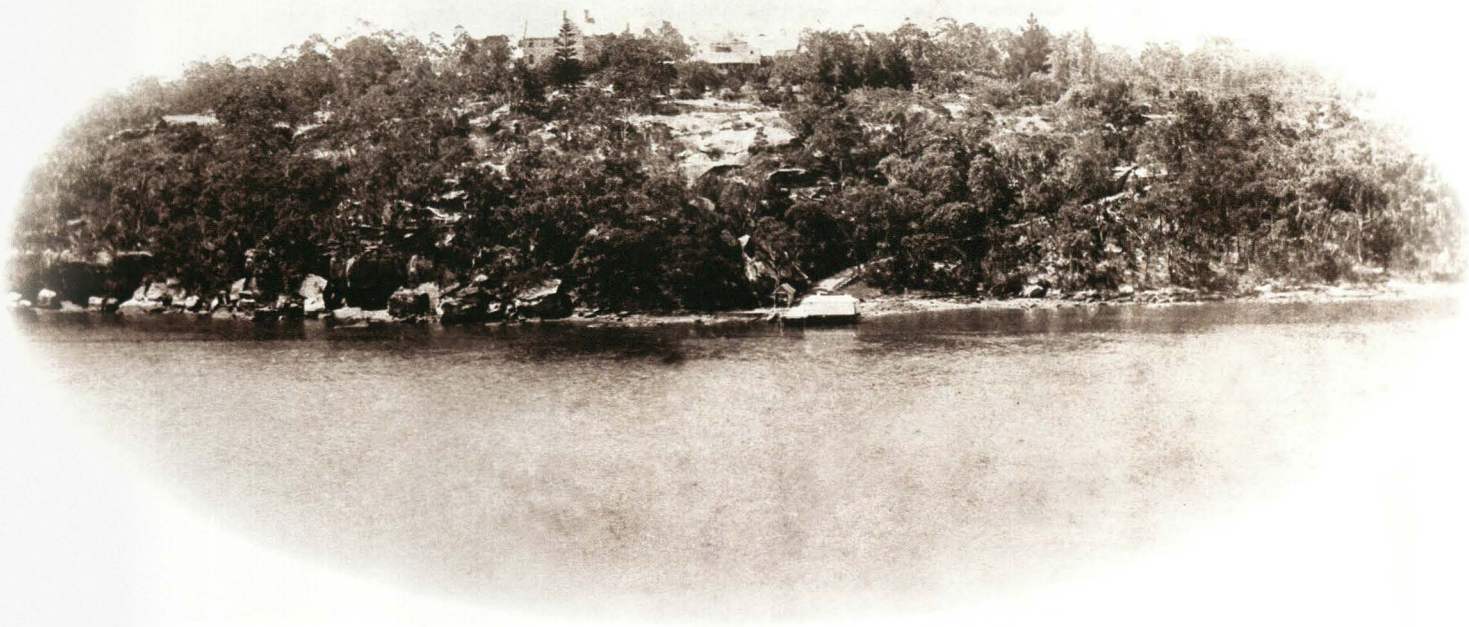
Being six years old, the College was still in its infancy. The College Prospectus stated that the following subjects were offered; 'Classical and Modern Languages, History, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences and all other branches required for the Civil Service, the Junior, Senior and Matriculation Examinations. Unceasing care is taken to convey to the minds of the pupils solid instruction in the principles of Religion.' Music, dancing, singing and drawing were also offered at an extra charge. There were two vacations a year and pupils were allowed to remain at the College all year, except during the Christmas holidays, without extra charge. Apart from specialist lay teachers for subjects such as drawing, dancing and music, the teaching staff was made up of eight Jesuit masters.

There was no school uniform in 1886, students were instructed to bring a best suit and play clothes. Neither was there a school badge or motto. Records for that year show a total of 118 students on the roll. Six of these students were Dayboys, who, because of their proximity to the College, were allowed to ride their horses to school. The Prospectus of 1886 also records that the facilities consisted of

> 'the original cottage and brick building [now known as St Michael's House], and separate structures for chapel, class-rooms, study hall, junior pupils' dormitory, music rooms and infirmary [now part of the Jesuit quarters]. The front of the school faced the river and everything, including students, visitors and supplies arrived at the College by boat. Being isolated and surrounded by bush, new pupils were soon drawn into the 'Riverview family'.

Jesuit Masters and students alike were excited by the prospect of building a significant Catholic college and shared the dream of a great Catholic educational institution. Construction work began on the first half of the Main Building with the first stone of the foundations laid on 10 March (Ash Wednesday) 1886. The stone for the new building was quarried on the College grounds and was not be completed until 1889.

It was in this atmosphere of an isolated, close-knit community that *Our Alma Mater* had its beginnings. The aim of the publication was stated by the editors as 'to record faithfully and, when possible, fully, matters of interest to our fellow students, and by doing so increase the esprit de corps among them, and establish a link between those who are actually at the College



The Main Building, as envisioned by the architect, on the cover of the 1892 edition of *Our Alma Mater* (opposite) and the reality of Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, in 1886.

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE



Christopher Brennan (photographed in 1909), the first Editor in Chief of Our Alma Mater became one of Australia's most distinguished scholars and poets.

and those who have completed their college course.'
Editorial Preface, Our Alma Mater, 1886.

Who were the first editors of *Our Alma Mater*?

The first editors were senior students, rather than Jesuits, as one might have expected. Under the editors, there were four student reporters, who provided the editors with articles on the various sporting activities of the College. Christopher Brennan was the Editor in Chief and the assistant editors were Stephen Burke and Henry Fitzgerald. An early reviewer of *OAM* writing for the *Allora Guardian* noted: 'The articles are smartly written; many of them indicate talent of no mean order in our young friends that will probably, in the future, place them in the very front rank of writers in the Southern Hemisphere.' Little did the writer from the *Allora Guardian* know that, as he predicted, the editors would go on to distinguished careers. Stephen Burke became Rev Dr Stephen Burke and after studying philosophy and theology in Rome, returned to Australia to become Professor of Philosophy at St Patrick's Seminary College, Manly. Henry Fitzgerald became Monsignor Fitzgerald, the first Riverview Old Boy to be ordained. Christopher Brennan was to become one of Australia's most distinguished scholars and poets.

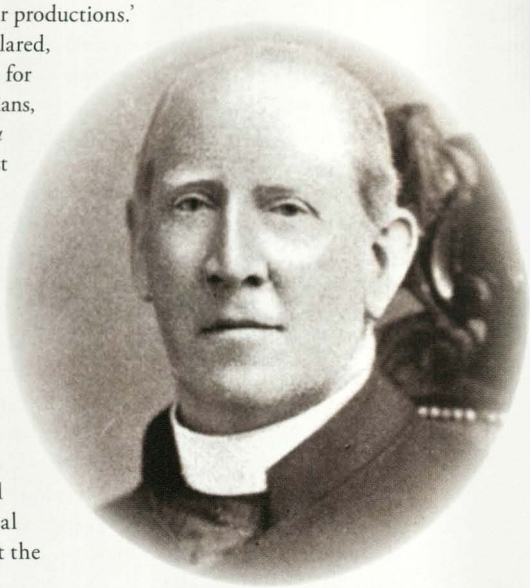
The first edition included as an Editorial Preface a quote from the poem *Childish Recollections*, by Lord Byron.

The quote expressed the *esprit de corps* that the editors hoped to foster and encourage and these lines continued to be the Preface of the Journal until 1899. The choice of Lord Byron's poem also suggests the influence of Brennan, the budding poet.

The first edition of *Our Alma Mater* was widely distributed by the community of Old Boys and was not just confined to those associated with the College. In fact, George Whiting, an Anglican who was a great friend and benefactor of Catholic education, and of St Joseph's and Monte Sant' Angelo Colleges in particular, received a copy and was so impressed, that he sent an amount that was enough to purchase twenty-one subscriptions.

The first reviews of *Our Alma Mater* were published in the 1890 edition. It was widely distributed and reviews came from around Australia and New Zealand. The *Mercury* in Hobart states, 'It is written and compiled with far more talent than is usually displayed in similar productions.'

The *Queanbeyan Age* declared, 'Although primarily intended for circulation amongst the collegians, the literary merits of *Our Alma Mater* entitle it to rank amongst the magazine literature of the Australian colonies.'



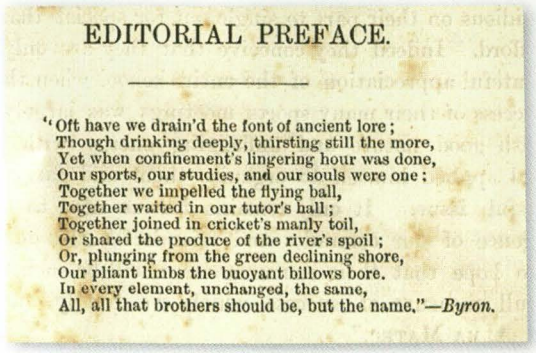
Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ encouraged and supported the publication of *Our Alma Mater*, providing a guiding hand to its student editors.

The *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton stated

> 'Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney is a school in the fullest sense of the term; intellect and body are alike trained, and as the record of the school amply proves, with equal and excellent results. But the students of Saint Ignatius' are not content to gather laurels only in the schoolroom and on the athletic ground; they have invaded the domain of journalism, and that with no mean success.'

Other reviews were received from the *Bega Gazette*, *The Mackay Mercury*, and *The New Zealand Tablet*, a Catholic periodical which was published weekly and founded by Bishop Moran in 1873. It also received reviews from prominent Catholic newspapers, including the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Catholic Standard*. *Our Alma Mater* has outlived some of the newspapers and periodicals, which provided the first supportive and encouraging reviews. The *Allora Guardian* ceased production in 1934, and the *South Australian Register*; the first South Australian newspaper, shut its presses in 1900, along with *The Hay Standard*. *The New Zealand Tablet* closed its doors in 1996.

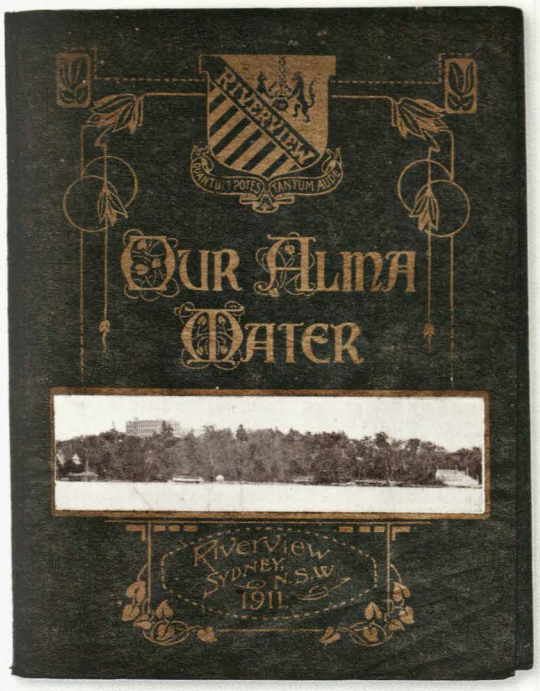
The second edition of *Our Alma Mater* was expanded to fulfill a promise that was made by the editors in the pioneer edition to include 'original matter from our fellow students or others interested in our labours.' As such, as well as reporting on the sporting activities of the College, there were poems by Jesuits, verses written in Latin and English, and essays, some written by the editors themselves. For example, Christopher Brennan wrote an essay on 'The Australia of the Future', in which he pondered what Australia will become. Although providing very little in the way of predictions, he wrote, 'It is hard to say what it will become, but certain it is that a glorious future awaits our country.' Brennan also wrote a couple of well-known



EDITORIAL PREFACE.

"Oft have we drain'd the font of ancient lore;
Though drinking deeply, thirsting still the more,
Yet when confinement's lingering hour was done,
Our sports, our studies, and our souls were one:
Together we impelled the flying ball,
Together waited in our tutor's hall;
Together joined in cricket's manly toil,
Or shared the produce of the river's spoil;
Or, plunging from the green declining shore,
Our pliant limbs the buoyant billows bore.
In every element, unchanged, the same,
All, all that brothers should be, but the name."—*Byron.*

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE



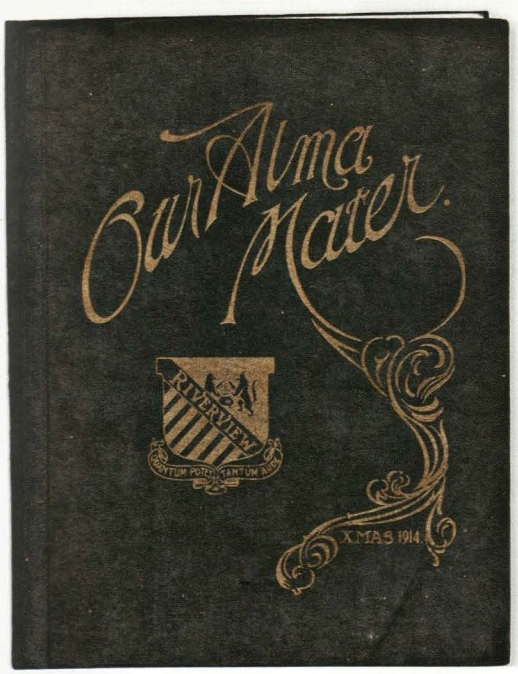


The frontispiece of the 1911 edition of *Our Alma Mater* was the first use of colour in the publication, which also featured a photograph of the Main Building, from across the river, on the front cover.

nursery rhymes in Latin, which were translated back into English by another editor, Stephen Burke.

It was not until 1894 that we learn that Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ was the guiding hand behind the student editors. This comes as no surprise, as it was Fr Gartlan who established, inspired and supported the Rowing Club and College Cadet Corps.

He was also particularly careful to foster a good public image for the College. So, it was only natural that he would encourage and support the publication of *Our Alma Mater*. In fact, according to the editorial of the 1911 edition, the idea for the production of a College Journal grew out of a small pamphlet produced by the Rowing Club, outlining the various activities of the club.



The pages of the 1914 edition of Our Alma Mater reflected the impact of the Great War upon the growing Riverview Family

Riverview has always maintained contact with its former students and their families. As the activities of the College grew and the Old Boys' network continued to expand, so did *Our Alma Mater*. It included essays from Old Boys on their travels in Australia and abroad. 'Old Boys' Notes' recorded achievements, travels, weddings, the birth of children and deaths. Over its 125 years, *Our Alma Mater* has provided a record not only of College life, but also glimpses of dramatic world events outside Riverview. As the 20th century unfolded, the pages of the *OAM* reflected the personal experiences of the College community in two world wars and the Great Depression.

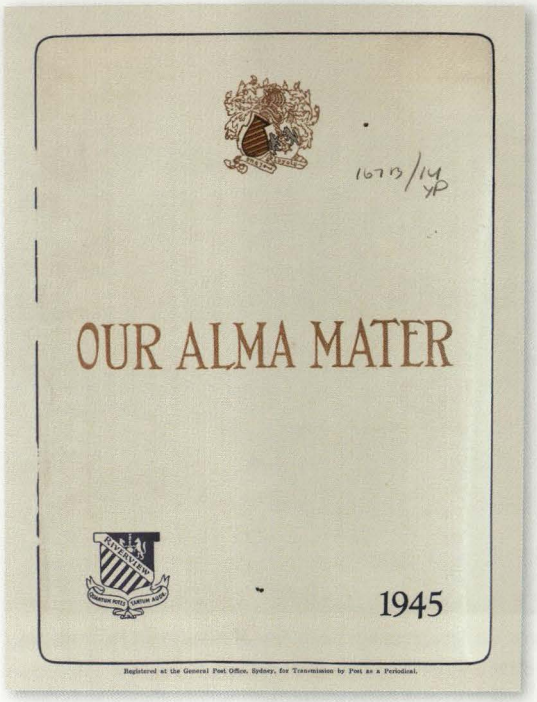
The 1911 edition of *Our Alma Mater* marked the first use of colour in the publication. A colour photograph of a view of the Rose Garden across to the Main Building appeared in the journal. The photograph was produced using a three-colour process on separate coloured blocks. The original glass negatives used to create this photograph still exist and are held in the Riverview Archives. A miniature Abbey, which was built by Brother Forster SJ in 1910, stands in the foreground of the photograph. Although partly hidden under a large tree, the Abbey is still in the garden today. C W Bridge of the Electric Photo Engraving Company took the photograph and when was published in 1911, the bold claim was made that it was the first of its kind produced in Australia. Although this claim has not been verified, it could very well be the case, as colour photography was still in its infancy, in Australia.

1918 heralded a major change in the production of *Our Alma Mater*. After thirty-three years being edited by the students, the editorial reins were finally handed over to a Jesuit master, Fr Patrick Griffin SJ. The only mention of the change is that it no longer bears the title '*Our Alma Mater*, edited by the students of Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney'. Instead, the title states, 'The Annual Magazine of St Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney'.

On examining the list of student and Jesuit editors there are a couple of things worth noting about the personalities involved in editing *Our Alma Mater*.

Although the first edition of *Our Alma Mater* was produced six years after the founding of the College, it had links with the foundation of the College, as one of the editors of 1889, Thomas Curran, was one of the first pupils to be received by the College. Thomas Curran entered Riverview on 8 April 1880 and soon became a favourite son of Fr Dalton. Young Curran's appearance of mock severity, created by his habit of parting his hair down the middle belied his true nature, for he was a young man of wit and intellect, a clever singer and instrumentalist, keen sportsman, and brilliant debater. After returning to Ireland, he became the youngest member of

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE



The pages of *Our Alma Mater* recorded the deaths of Old Ignatians, who made the ultimate sacrifice, during the years of World War II, from 1939-45.

the House of Commons, when he took part in the general election campaign in 1892 and became the Nationalist member for Kilkenny.

Patrick Joseph Dalton was a student editor in 1899. He returned to the College in 1911 as Fr Patrick Dalton SJ for a few years and again in 1927. He was an assistant editor from 1929 until 1932.

The longest serving editor was Fr Thomas McLoughlin SJ. He was editor of *Our Alma Mater* from 1936-63 and was known to the College community as Fr Mac. He had a special place in the hearts of many and maintained contact with the Old Boys long after they had left the College. In his office, Fr Mac kept photographs of many Old Boys pinned on his notice board. The photographs depicted Old Boys at significant times in their lives such as in military uniform, with their brides or in their chosen profession. The notice board became known as the 'Rogues Gallery' and was only dismantled after his death by Fr Charles Fraser SJ, because it was starting to deteriorate. The photos from Fr Mac's Rogues Gallery now form a significant photographic collection and are held in the Riverview Archives.

Another long serving editor was Fr Charles Fraser SJ, who was editor from 1967 until 1984. Fr Fraser was an Old Boy of the College and, like Fr McLoughlin, had strong ties to the Old Boys' network. Known as 'Chisel' due to his sharp wit, Fr Fraser was well respected amongst staff and students.

There was a shift in 1985 when the Old Ignatians' Union began their own Journal and their presence in *Our Alma Mater* was diminished. This was also the first year that the editor was a Lay Master and not a Jesuit. Glenn King, English teacher and Debating Master, took on the role of editor.

Our Alma Mater continues to hold a special place in the life of the College. Throughout its 125 year history, *Our Alma Mater* has continued to fulfill its early aim of establishing and increasing the *esprit de corps* of the Riverview community. At the same time, the *OAM* has expanded and changed as the needs of the Riverview community have grown and changed over time. From those early day, with the introduction of colour photographs, illustrations and graphics to the current digital age, the *OAM* has kept abreast of technological changes.
In 1887, the first Editor in Chief, Christopher Brennan, considered what the future held for Australia, and concluded that it would be 'glorious'. No doubt, he would be delighted to know that the periodical he helped bring into being is thriving and is part of the glorious future he foresaw.



Fr Thomas McLoughlin SJ, known to the College Community as Fr Mac, photographed with his Rogues Gallery of Old Ignatians, was the longest-serving Editor of *Our Alma Mater*.

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE

EDITORS OF OUR ALMA MATER

1886 ..... Christopher Brennan, Stephen Burke and Henry Fitzgerald, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1887–1888 ..... Christopher Brennan & Stephen Burke, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1889 ..... John Henry Keating, Thomas Bartholomew Curran and Bernard Joseph Beirne (elected by the votes of the pupils) under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1890 ..... Alfred M Jennings, Patrick Hubert Mooney & John Aloysius Cullinane (elected by the pupils), under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1891 ..... Patrick Hubert Mooney, John Aloysius Cullinane and Thomas Gregan McMahon, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1892 ..... Thomas Gregan McMahon, Dawson Joseph Corrigan and John Joseph Lynch, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

1893–4 (published in June 1894) Ferdinand Duboise, Joseph Martin Haydon, Timothy Sexton and Edward Henry Kelly, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan SJ

December 1894 ... Student editors Edward Henry Kelly, Michael Joseph O'Brien, and George Conway Dow, under the direction of Fr Thomas Gartlan

June & December 1895 ... Student Editors Edward Henry Kelly, George Conway Dow, and Bertie Patrick McEvoy, under the Direction of Father Thomas Gartlan SJ

June 1896 ..... Arthur Reginald Dignam, John Edmund Francis D'Apice, Jacques Paul Perraud, under the direction of Fr Joseph Hearn SJ

December 1896 ... John Edmund Francis D'Apice, Percy Horne Power and Francis Punch, under the direction of Fr Joseph Hearn SJ

June 1897 ..... Percy Horne Power, Francis Punch and James William Ryan, under the direction of Rev Richard Golding

December 1897 ... Percy Horne Power, James William Ryan and Christopher John Flanagan, under the direction of Rev Richard Golding

June & December 1898 ... Arthur Makinson, Charles Gavan Duffy and James MacDonald, under the direction of Rev Richard Golding

June 1899 ..... Patrick Griffin, Robert J Douglas and Patrick Joseph Dalton, under the direction of Rev Richard Golding

December 1899 ... Patrick Griffin, Joseph Coen and Robert J Douglas, under the direction of Rev Jeremiah Sullivan

December 1900 – December 1901 ..... For the first time the student editors were not named, but were under the direction of Rev Jeremiah Sullivan

June 1902– July 1906 ..... Unnamed student editors, under the direction of Rev Patrick O'Brien

December 1906–Jul 1908 Unnamed student editors, under the direction of Fr John Corcoran SJ

December 1908–1910 ..... Unnamed student editors under the direction of Rev Francis O'Brien (Scholastic)

1910 ..... Unnamed student editors under the direction of Franciscus O'Brien (Scholastic)

June & December 1911 .... Unnamed student editors under the direction of Father John Corcoran SJ

1912–1915 ..... Unnamed student editors under the direction of Rev Thomas O'Mara (Scholastic)

1916–1917 ..... Unnamed student editors, under the direction of Rev Dennis Nerney (Scholastic)

1918–1919 ..... Fr Patrick Griffin SJ – For the first time, there were no student editors.

1920 ..... Rev Felix Conlon

1921 ..... The Editor was not recorded, but was probably Fr Joseph Healy SJ

1922 ..... Fr Joseph Healy SJ

1923–1925 ..... Thomas McLoughlin

1926 ..... Fr Louis Loughnan SJ

1927–1935 ..... Fr Vincent Conlon SJ; 1929 Assistant Editor Fr Patrick McEntegart; 1929–1932 Assistant Editor Fr Patrick Joseph Dalton SJ

1936–1963 ..... Fr Thomas McLoughlin SJ

1964–1966 ..... Fr John Daunt Byrne SJ

1967–1984 ..... Fr Charles Fraser SJ

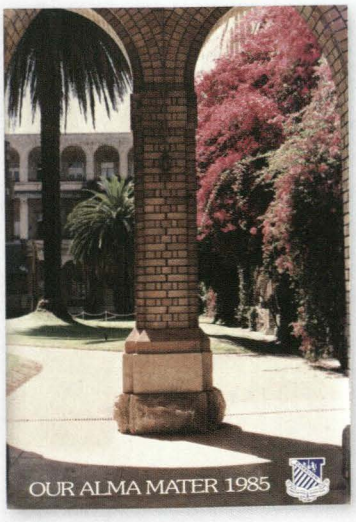
1985–1990 ..... Glenn S King

1991–1993 ..... Michael Pope

1994–2002 ..... Errol Lea-Scarlett

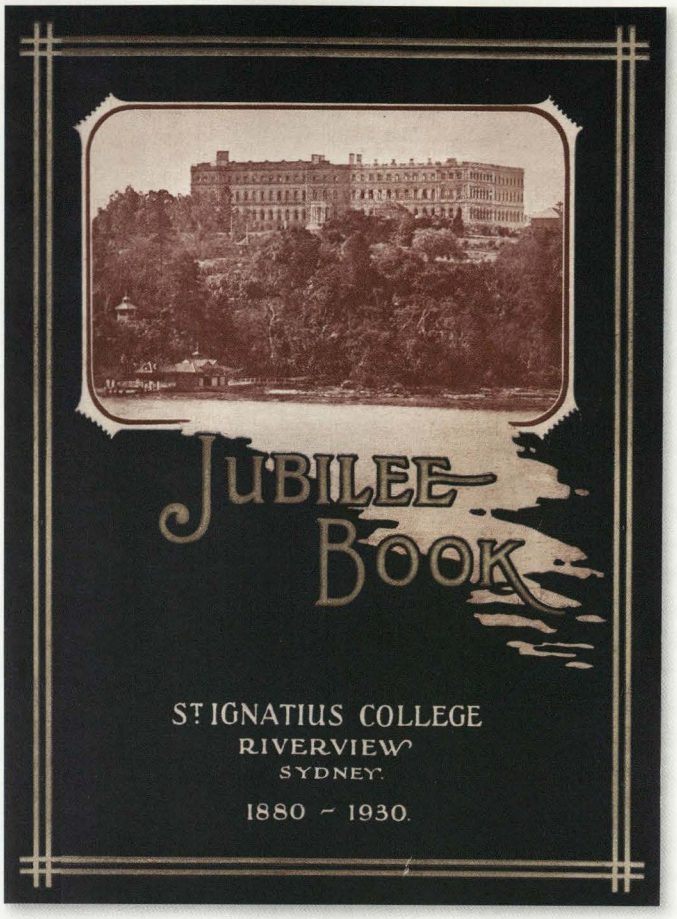
2001–2004 ..... Donna Wedesweiller

2005–2011 .....Anthony J Renshaw



Our Alma Mater' was edited by a lay master for the first time in 1985.

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE





Fr Charles Fraser SJ (above) was a long-serving Editor of Our Alma Mater between 1967 and 1984;

Since the first edition of *Our Alma Mater* was published 125 years ago, it has provided an accurate record of life at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview.

(Left) Jubilee Book, commemorating the first fifty years of the College, from 1880-1930;

The importance of *Our Alma Mater*

Shane Hogan, Headmaster, writes: 'Saint Ignatius College, Riverview is a significant Catholic school in the history of education, not just in Sydney but in Australia. The importance of that history and the ability to recall significant events, people and changes is the role of *Our Alma Mater*. Nothing can be more important than the *Alma* in treasuring and recording our past and our history. One must always remember when the *Alma* has been published that while the current year is important for those who were students or parents during that year, far more importantly, the *Alma* will be significant to those who sit down and read it in 10 years time, or in 200 years time. One can never underestimate the importance of every *OAM*!'

James Rodgers OR72 writes the following as an Old Boy, member of staff and current parent: 'Keeping a full set of the *'Almas'* has been a passion of mine. I find links to the past that can sustain the present. The older *'Almas'* are a real journal of record of days past and the more recent ones are a way to celebrate the diversity and rich experiences that the College currently provides.

Reading the older *'Almas'* makes me appreciate those who've gone before us. Those of us who are here now stand on the shoulders of giants. And they are giants who come alive through the pages of *Our Alma Mater*.'

Old Ignatian John Fennel (OR 2007) writes: 'I was always struck by the grandeur of Riverview throughout all of my years as one of its students. Not only was it grand in the sense that its grounds and buildings regularly took my breath away. Nor was it grand solely because it had such a large student body. To me, Riverview's impressiveness was largely derived from the breadth of experiences it offered and the types of initiatives the students were able to engage in, from year to year. *Our Alma Mater* captures the essences of those experiences, from sporting and academic successes to immersion and community experiences. Throughout the pages of this publication, past, present, and prospective students, parents, and friends can see the spirit of a Riverview education. Despite having left Riverview only in recent years, the past is easily forgotten. Having several *Almas* on my shelf is a constant, encouraging reminder of the wonderful school that helped me to develop into the man I am today. '

Donna Wedesweiler, former editor of *Our Alma Mater*, current member of staff and past parent writes:

'Each year when we receive the latest edition of *Our Alma Mater* there is that great sense of anticipation and excitement as we open its pages and begin to recall the myriad activities that have taken place at the College over the previous 12 months.

To me, the *'Alma'*, with its countless photos, articles and stories, its colour and its clean, uncomplicated layout, provides a remarkable and absolutely indispensable record of life at Riverview. It is a book filled with the passion, the exhilaration as well the quiet reflections of students and staff, who, each in their own way, have 'dared to do their best' on the sporting field, in the classroom, on stage and in the community.

As an editor of the *'Alma'*, it was my privilege to publish the many stories and photographs of the people of Riverview from 2001 through to 2004. As a member of staff and as a parent, I feel very proud that we have at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview such a remarkable record of the life of the College – a record that provides us with that deeper understanding of why we do what we do, 'for the greater glory of God'.'

OUR ALMA MATER RETROSPECTIVE



Glenn S King, English Teacher and Debating Master, with the Debating Team, in 1983. Glenn King took on the role of editor of *Our Alma Mater*, from 1985-90, the first time that the editor had been a Lay Master and not a Jesuit.



Original College Badge, 1906.

Anthony Renshaw, editor 2005-2010, writes:

'The *OAM* is the College flagship publication. Its representative voice has articulated the spirit of the College for 125 years across a variety of registers, from the dashing praise of its early boy-editors to the stern admonitions of later more disciplined and more academic editors. I started editing the *OAM* in 2005, the 125th anniversary of the founding of the College, and the task was to celebrate the past and record the present. Building on the work of past editors, the idea was to give the publication a shape and an appearance suited to the new millennium, respectful of its heritage and hopeful for its future. The years 2005-2010 have been marked by the full transition of the publication into the digital age. The abundance of available images and information and its ease of accumulation have provided tremendous advantages. But with this comes a serious challenge: to make sure that the *OAM*'s representative voice isn't obscured, that it remains clear and audible, and that the students in 2125 will still find that the boys of 2011 had the same ideals, the same hopes, the same joys, the same challenges.'

