

## Michael Murphy



Michael Murphy

The name Mick Murphy is synonymous with Rostrevor College. In Rostrevor circles there are few old scholars (but there are some) who would be as well known as Mick. There would be even fewer (maybe none!) who would know as many old scholars and their families and their connections as Mick.

In introducing Michael at an interstate function, former Headmaster, Br Dean McGlaughlin, quipped 'I would like to introduce to you Mr Michael Murphy – the ubiquitous Rostrevor old scholar'.

When Mick recalled this introduction when being interviewed for this piece, I suggested that it may be necessary to define ubiquitous in order for the wider reading public to appreciate the remark. Mick seemed to think that would not be necessary – but I still do.

Ubiquitous: ever-present, everywhere, omnipresent.

That is how I have found Mick Murphy to be and I am sure that is the same for the wider Rostrevor old scholar community. With this omnipresence are lashings of sincerity and generosity.

Michael Murphy (Mick or Murph) commenced as a boarder from Torrensville with his half brother Sean in 1957. They started as day scholars but after one Term entered the boarding house at the suggestion of Matron Duggan. Mick's mother, Sadie, passed away when Mick was 5 years old. He started school at St Joseph's Thebarton, and went on to St Aloysius, Marist



From the 1957 Annual: Sean Murphy

Brothers, Thebarton, St Ignatius with an occasional sojourn with the Salesian Fathers, Boystown, at Brooklyn Park and then Rostrevor. Mick's father Daniel attended C.B.C Wakefield Street.

At school Mick enjoyed a number of co-curricular outlets including YCS, St Vincent de Paul Society, a competitor in Eisteddfods, cricket, tennis, swimming and diving. He was also involved in the end of year G & S musicals "Trial by Jury", in which he was a bridesmaid, and The Mikado as Pish-Tush, a noble lord.

His main passion in sport was football and he represented Rostrevor in the 1st XVIII in 1962. Mick eventually went on to play league football for West Torrens. After trialling with his mate Peter May ('62) at North Adelaide and making the squad, he found Aquinas College didn't qualify him as a North Adelaide resident so he stood out of football for three years trying to gain a clearance. His clearance was held up by the vote of prominent barrister and "Brothers" old scholar Frank Moran QC, a West Torrens committeeman. In that period Mick was a sporting journeyman, playing for Broadview, Adelaide Teachers' College, Eudunda, North Adelaide Districts and finally with his brother Sean at CBOC's, as well as for Thebarton in the Sunday YCW competition where he was captain coach. He eventually relented and fronted at Thebarton where he was to play 10 League games. His career was cut short after an injury received when he was chosen in the State squad, under

coach Neil Kerley, to play Gaelic football against County Meath.

League footy's loss was Rostrevor Old Collegians gain, as Mick went on to co-found (1974) Captain and Coach and later filled the role as President of the ROCS. He was bestowed Life Membership of the club in 2003. He remains actively involved today as a long term Gold Sponsor of the Club and is respected by all associated with the Club for his generosity and loyalty.

During his final year at the College, Mick's father took ill and he can still remember the support and compassion offered by (Br) Bernie Cormie during that testing time.

With his Leaving Honours results Mick was offered a Teaching Scholarship at Adelaide Teachers' College and took up residence at Aquinas College as mentioned.

In his first year at Teachers College the famous late Dr Harry Penny decided teaching was not for him. Many years later Dr Penny remarked at a social function "it was probably the best decision ever made for him".

Mick then transferred from Science to Engineering and due to economic circumstances delayed studies and

entered the work force full time with the SA Tractor Company and stayed there until no longer required in 1971.

He then plied his many acquired skills mainly in hospitality and the women's fashion industry in design, manufacture, retailing and importing. His most notable position at this time was at the hub of the Adelaide entertainment scene as night manager of the Old Lion Hotel, rubbing shoulders with rich and famous in the entertainment industry.

In that year he also "swam the Torrens" and purchased his residence in Leabrook which has been the family home ever since, but for a short period when inhabited by some not so friendly ROCS.

Around 1974 he joined his future father in law, Colin Anderson (Head Prefect at Rostrevor 1939) in a marketing role in Meclock Fencing, a business he assumed in 1980. The business expanded into vineyard trellising.

In 1977 he married Charlotte Anderson in the College Chapel celebrated by Fr. Greg O'Kelly S.J. and they have six children. Amelia, Bridget, Patrick, Esther, Grace and Ellen.

In 1986, with 6 kids under six years old and broke, Mick, out of economic necessity, engineered another career



From the 1957 Annual –Under Thirteens (left to right)

Front Row: T Tierney, P Dubois, P Cullen, R Golin, R Stanford.  
Second Row: J Browne, B Auld, J Moloney, C McCabe (C), G McInerney, P Carey, J McSkimming.  
Third Row: M Guerin, M David, J Linhart, R Ball, A Boyle, D Short, A Mitchell, G Taheny.  
Fourth Row: D Smith, B Mayger, M Murphy, E Russo, D Walsh

## Michael Murphy

move and stepped into Life Insurance. In that same year, with another old scholar, Michael Mason ('69), they constructed the perimeter fence on the Olympic Dam mine site and the metallurgical plant security fence – his last hurrah in the fencing industry.

By 1990 he had established Murphy Financial Services which over the years has changed names to Murphy Financial Solutions and now Murphy Financial Advice. Recently he has transitioned the business and old scholar Darren Furst ('97) is the new principal.

As well as his close involvement with the ROCS Mick has held the role of President of the Rostrevor Old Collegians' Association and Chairman of the Rostrevor College Foundation and chaired the Rostrevor Community Coordination Committee.

When asked to recall some anecdotes from his varied associations with

Rostrevor one such recollection related to Tom Kendell, the legendary Economics and Ancient History teacher and athletics coach at Rostrevor (1955-1973). Mick was not taught by Tom while at school but developed a strong relationship with him post-school through old scholar associations and as coach of Broadview Football Club. It is not well known that Tom Kendell was the first Chairmen/President of the ROCFC. Mick was coach in ROCS inaugural year and after a particular three quarter time address early in the season, Tom resigned as Chairman over 'the coaches use of colourful language.' Mick still recalls this incident with a great deal of mirth as he remained good friends with Tom up until his death in July 2001. Just for the record, the ROCFC Honour Board records the first President as Jack McAuliffe, who took over after Tom resigned!

Another anecdote involves boarding, Br Miller, a late night and a Loreto girl.

In 1962, Mick, Kevin Casanova (R.I.P.) and two other boarders travelled to the city, as you did, as the Rostrevor debating team. According to Mick, Kevin had a sweetheart at Loreto who offered to drive them home so the lads missed the last bus and were chauffeured back to the College in due course. Unbeknown to them, Br Miller was lurking in the shadows and witnessed their arrival and Kevin's affectionate farewell to the driver.

All four eventually proceeded upstairs to the Senior Dorm. While getting undressed for bed, a voice came through the darkness asking the fellows who had just arrived back at the College to report to 'my room'.

Scantly clad, and feeling extremely vulnerable the recalcitrants attempted to explain to Br Miller that they had missed the last bus and had caught a taxi home. Br Miller considered their response and then replied, 'If that's the case Casanova, I observed you being very intimate with the taxi driver'.

Additional to Mick's many voluntary roles related to Rostrevor College, over the years he has involved himself in many professional and charitable associations. He has been on the Agents Association for Legal and General Insurance, on the Board of the Association of Financial Advisors, President of the Association for 3 years, Chair of the Government and Policy Committee since 1999 and Australian delegate to the Asia Pacific Financial

Services Association (AP Fin SA) and the International Federation of Financial Standards (IFFS). Mick was involved with St Vincent de Paul and on the steering committee of the SVDP Foundation and the Mary Potter Hospice Foundation. Through his involvement in the Association of Financial Advisors he established a fund for Multiple Sclerosis research and is a trustee of that Foundation and is on the Board of the Bone Growth Foundation.

In 2009 the Association of Financial Advisers established the Michael Murphy Award, to recognise outstanding services to the Financial Services Industry.

Mick has experienced some serious health issues over the last 5 years. The hallmark of the man is that he has not let that diminish his involvement and commitment to his family, his work and his many other community and professional interests. The ROCA wish him well and thank him for his many contributions to the Rostrevor College community over so many years.



Michael Murphy presenting the 2006 'Michael Murphy Best in Finals Trophy' to Club Captain Marcus Trimboli



From the 1962 Annual – Football 1st XVIII (left to right)

Front Row: J Kearney, J Beatty, A Mitchell (VC), P May, J McAuliffe (C), W Walden, C Heffernan, M Beerworth, R Haheey.  
Second Row: J Ordon (B Umpire), R Duke, K Dunn, J Baldissera, T Zander, A Monaghan, J Ramsay, S Fraser, J McNamara, J Ryan (Goal Umpire)  
Third Row: D Walsh, M Murphy, E Russo, M Heffernan, B Kardachi, M David, R Williams.



Lou Flint, Damian Flint, Kerron Gillen, Tom Kendell, Richard Hearn and Mick Murphy at the opening of the Br John Moylan Changeroom in the Rostrevor College Pavilion, in May 2000.



Leo Panzarino, Mick Murphy, Carmine (Crusher) Callisto, Cathy Haddad, Matt Haddad and Dave Cavuoto at the ROCFC Presentation Night at the Hilton Hotel, September 2000