



TOGETHER, STANDING TALL

ST CHARLES COLLEGE
1875 - 2002



Together,
STANDING TALL
ST CHARLES COLLEGE
1875 | 2002

EDITED *by* JUSTIN WALDMAN

BOARD *of* GOVERNORS
ST CHARLES COLLEGE
PIETERMARITZBURG



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Introduction

THIS PUBLICATION IS ONE of several items produced to commemorate the 125th anniversary of St Charles College, Pietermaritzburg.

Its purpose is to provide some insight into the current status of SCC, the history of the College and, most importantly, to pay tribute to those who have contributed, in whatever way, to the survival and successes of the College since its inception.

St Charles College was established by the Oblate Fathers in 1875. It has faced many challenges in its 127 years of history, not least of which has been the challenge of survival in the past 23 years following the withdrawal of the Marist Brothers in 1978. The College has also celebrated many successes over the years, and there is little doubt that the past decade, 1991 to 2001, must rank as one of its most successful periods, being marked by the College's resurgence as one of the leading independent schools in South Africa.

There is a strong similarity between SCC and the Biblical character David who vanquished Goliath. Both SCC and David are part of the same tradition and are characterised by their small size, their values, their simplicity, their courage, their will to win, and their results. These are the characteristics which have carried the College through its 127-year existence.

Be mindful of these characteristics as you reflect on the history of St Charles College, and may these characteristics continue to be the basis for its continued success in the years ahead.

Alan Fourie
Chairman of the Board of Governors
St Charles College
7 June 2002



ABOVE *The 125 Celebration logo.*

This is a celebration, a time to reflect on the past, a moment to pause at the words "Fideli certa merces" – he who is loyal will have certain reward – and to grow forwards, up, and into the future. How the College came to celebrate its 125th birthday two years after the event is fully explained in the Editor's Foreword on page xi.

OPPOSITE *c.1919 The St Charles' College Pipes, Fifes and Drums Band on Big Field, Loop Street. The College got five bagpipes when they had only bargained on two. The full story appears on page 23, with associated photographs on pages 22 and 26.*

ILLUSTRATIONS ON PREVIOUS PAGES

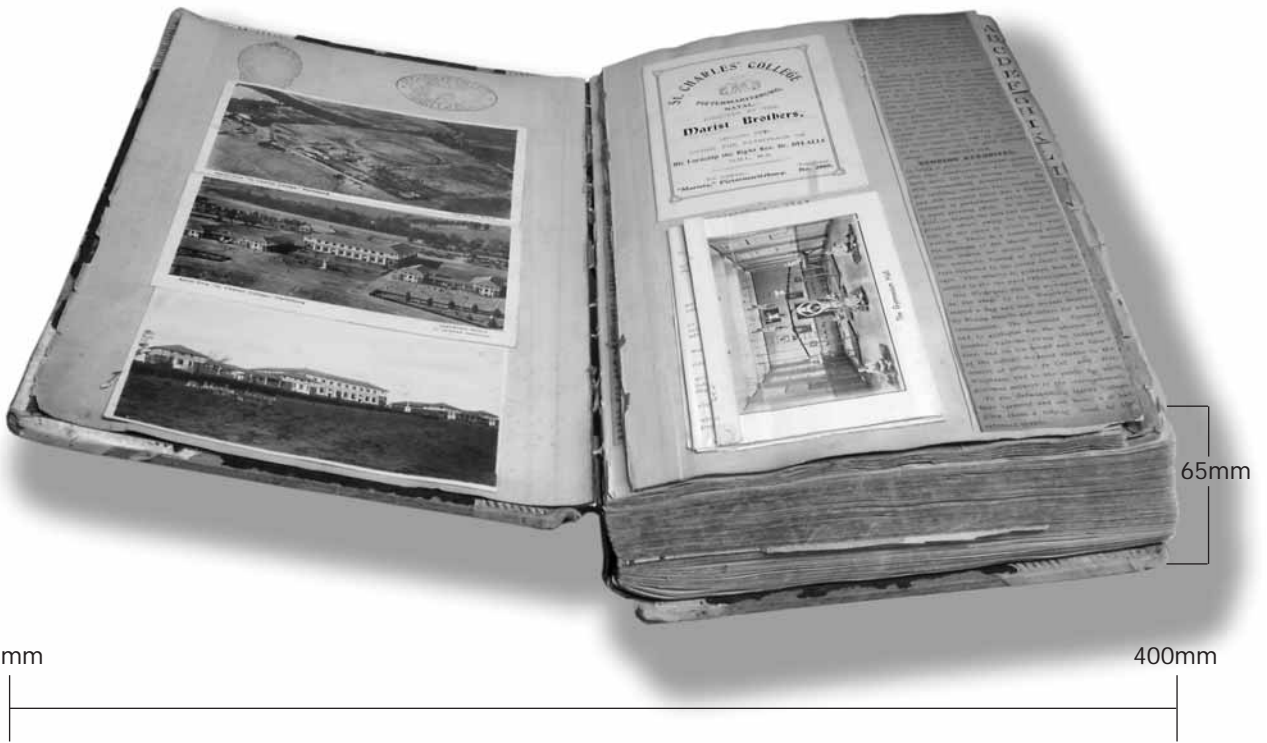
Page i Thursday 21 March 2002: The release of balloons by the Prep School boys at the 125th Celebration Fair.

Page ii: June 1998. Wacry by the College boys. The boys in the front row are, from left, Blignaut van Huyssteen, Kieran O'Neill, Pascal Bestel, Jonathan Alessandri, Pierre Duwat.

Page iv: October 2001. From the Oval, a view of St Charles, the Prep School on the left, the Chapel in the centre and the College on the right.

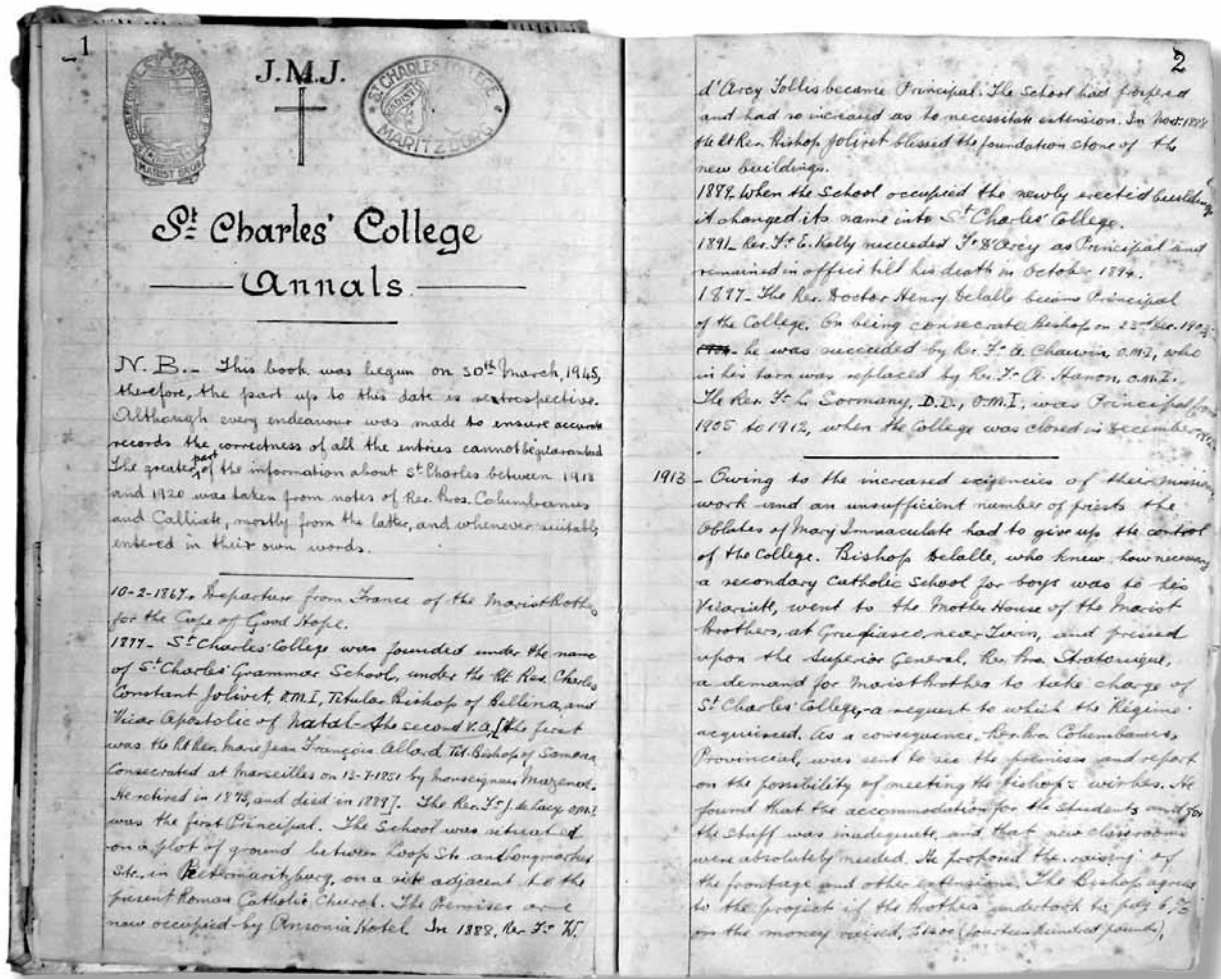
Page vi: November 2001, at 7.30 am with the boys arriving for school. The jacarandas, in the early morning light, are a particularly striking feature of St Charles.





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1

J.M.J.



St. Charles' College
Annals.

N.B. - This book was begun on 30th March, 1945, therefore, the part up to this date is retrospective. Although every endeavour was made to ensure accuracy records the correctness of all the entries cannot be guaranteed. The greater part of the information about St. Charles between 1877 and 1920 was taken from notes of Revs. Bros. Columbanus and Calliste, mostly from the latter, and whenever suitably entered in their own words.

10-2-1867. Departure from France of the Marist Brothers for the Cape of Good Hope.

1877. St. Charles' College was founded under the name of St. Charles' Grammar School, under the Rt. Rev. Charles Constant Jolivet, O.M.I., Titular Bishop of Bellera, and Vicar Apostolic of Natal. The second V.A. [the first was the Rt. Rev. Jean-François Allard, Tit. Bishop of Senegal, consecrated at Marseilles on 12-7-1851 by Monseigneur Marquet]. He retired in 1875, and died in 1887. The Rev. Fr. J. de la Haye, O.M.I. was the first Principal. The School was situated on a plot of ground between Loop St. and Longmarket St., in Port Natal, now on a site adjacent to the present Roman Catholic Church. The premises were now occupied by Benson's Hotel. In 1888, the Fr. W.

2

d'Arcy Jollis became Principal. The School had prospered and had no increase as to necessitated extension. In 1900, 1904 the Rt. Rev. Bishop Jollis blessed the foundation stone of the new buildings.

1889. When the School occupied the newly erected building it changed its name into St. Charles' College.

1891. Rev. Fr. G. Kelly succeeded Fr. de la Haye as Principal and remained in office till his death in October, 1894.

1897. The Rev. Doctor Henry Belalle became Principal of the College. On being consecrated Bishop on 23rd Dec. 1903, ~~1904~~ he was succeeded by Rev. Fr. G. Chauva, O.M.I., who in his turn was replaced by Rev. Fr. G. Hanson, O.M.I.

The Rev. Fr. L. Cormany, D.D., O.M.I., was Principal from 1905 to 1912, when the College was closed in December, 1912.

1913. - Owing to the increased exigencies of their mission work and an insufficient number of priests the Oblates of Mary Immaculate had to give up the control of the College. Bishop Belalle, who knew how necessary a secondary Catholic School for boys was to the Vicarinate, went to the Mother House of the Marist Brothers, at Grapiesee, near Lyon, and pressed upon the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Stabourgue, a demand for Marist Brothers to take charge of St. Charles' College, a request to which the Regino acquiesced. As a consequence, Rev. Bro. Columbanus, Provincial, was sent to see the premises and report on the possibility of meeting the Bishop's wishes. He found that the accommodation for the students and the staff was inadequate, and that new classrooms were absolutely needed. He proposed the raising of the frontage and other extensions. The Bishop agreed to the project if the Brothers undertook by July 6, 1913 on the money required, 1000 (pounds) hundred pounds.

Editor's Foreword

TAKING A FAT, 488-PAGE, leather-and-cloth-bound, feint-ruled book, Brother Walter started writing the St Charles College Annals in March 1945. In his chair behind the Principal's desk at the College that year, he was 20 years past the College's move to Scottsville. He was 70 years on from the founding Fathers of 1875.

He, along with everyone at the College at the time, believed that St Charles opened its doors in 1877.

Bro. Walter wrote, in 1945,

J.M.J. – St. Charles' College – Annals – N.B. – This book was begun on 30th March, 1945, therefore, the part up to this date is retrospective. Although every endeavour was made to ensure accurate records the correctness of all the entries cannot be guaranteed. The greater part of the information about St. Charles between 1913 and 1920 was taken from notes of Rev. Bro. Columbanus and Callixte, mostly from the latter, and whenever suitable, entered in their own words...

1877 – St. Charles' College was founded under the name of St. Charles Grammar School, under the Rt. Rev. Charles Constant Jolivet, O.M.I., Titular Bishop of Bellina, and Vicar Apostolic of Natal...

Judging from the language style above, when comparing it with his later daily writings, it would appear that he quoted from another source, borne out by his precise reference to the title of the Bishop, long since dead; this kind of information he was unlikely to have had as part of his daily knowledge

OPPOSITE ABOVE 1945 *The bulky Annals of St Charles' College, opened at pages i and ii.*

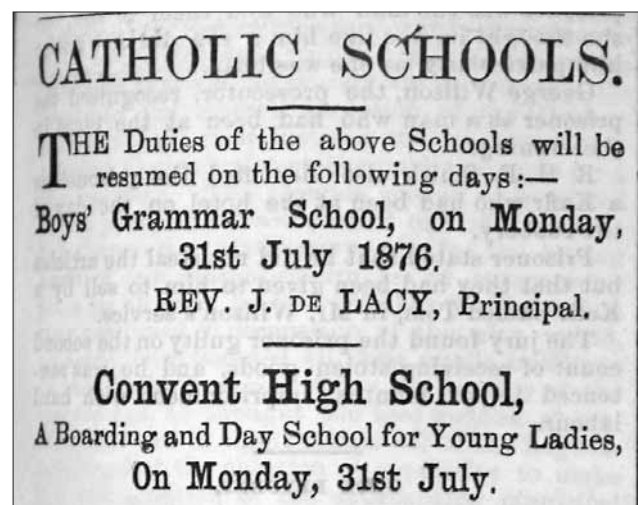
OPPOSITE BELOW 1945 *Pages 1 and 2 of the St. Charles' College Annals in the handwriting of Bro. Walter.*

RIGHT 1876 *A typical "re-opening" ad in "The Witness". St Charles was coming up to its first birthday.*

70 years after the event.

Bro. Walter also inherited a small collection of some 80 press cuttings which he sorted into chronological order and glued on to the first 26 pages of his Annals. He also found a 1928 College Prospectus which he glued into the Annals, which he captioned, "Prospectus 1928". Look at it closely – it's reproduced on page xii. On the front cover of this Prospectus was the line "Founded 1875". As this didn't support Bro. Walter's "1877" belief, he appears to have penned a "7" on top of the "5" – after all, if the printed material was at odds with his belief, why not just change it? Did he really believe that the Bro. Principal in 1928, Bro. Paul Camile, would have allowed the printers of the Prospectus to get away with such a glaring error?

Had Bro. Walter been suspicious (there was really no reason for him to have been) he may have set off to the offices of "The Natal Witness" in town and browsed through the pages of their old newspapers. Had he done so, he would have found, in the July 1877 pages of the newspaper, advertisements placed by various schools (St Charles, Bishop's, Hilton, Hermannsburg, amongst others) notifying the public of their **re-opening** after the July holidays. This was the way they did things in those days. There were no photocopied notices for the boys to take home at the end of the previous term, no internet messages from the Principal – just notoriously unreliable schoolboy messengers. So it was up to the newspaper to convey information to the parents about the school's re-opening after the holidays.



St. CHARLES' COLLEGE

PIETERMARITZBURG,

NATAL.

DIRECTED BY THE

Marist Brothers,

(FOUNDED 1875).

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. DELALLE

O.M.I., M.A.

Tel. Address:

"Marists," Pietermaritzburg.

Telephone:

No. 3865.

Prospectus - 1928

The discovery of such a St Charles “re-opening” advertisement might have led Bro. Walter to go further back, to January 1877, to July 1876, to January 1876 – each time he would have found St Charles advertising that they were re-opening after the holidays.

Had he then gone back further, he would have found, on the front page of “The Natal Witness” on Tuesday, 6 July 1875, the first of a series of five consecutive advertisements, which notified the Pietermaritzburg public of the imminent opening of the “St. Charles’ Catholic Grammar School for Boys” scheduled for Monday, 26 July 1875.

That July 6 “Natal Witness” front page, as well as a close-up of the advertisement, are reproduced on pages 2 and 1, respectively, of this book. The ads ran every Tuesday and Friday (there were only two “Witnesses” per week in the 1870s) until Tuesday, 20 July 1875. On the Friday of that week, 23 July, there was a general news notice which gave the magical words, ‘New Grammar School’ which was ‘to be opened on the 26th inst.’

As attested by the “re-opening-after-the-holidays” ads which followed every six months thereafter, St Charles College did indeed open in July 1875. The 1928 Prospectus cover, reproduced opposite, merely confirms it. And so too did the founder of St Charles, Bishop Jolivet, the Catholic Bishop of Natal, confirm this when he wrote in his diary on 21 September 1875, ‘I have begun a school in our house which is small enough as it is. I found myself rather cramped.’

Despite of this fundamental error in dating, Bro. Walter’s Annals form the backbone of the history of St Charles College in Chapters 1 and 2 which follow.

The Annals which Bro. Walter started were part and parcel of the management of all the Marist schools in South Africa. They were kept on an irregular basis from 1945 onwards at St Charles, sometimes written up quarterly, sometimes almost daily, sometimes dated precisely, sometimes not.

They were always inspected by various Brothers Provincial on their rounds, who read and signed them with comments such as teachers are inclined to write: ‘Very well kept and very comprehensive’ or ‘The manner in which this book is kept deserves credit and praise’ or ‘These Annals make interesting

reading – Good old Annals-ist!’ or ‘Very well kept! Suggest that exact dates be put in – later generations will bless you!’ or ‘I would like to suggest the exact dates be included. This would help anyone who may write up the history of the College at some future date!’

I’ll say.

From my position in 2002, and particularly having worked as a teacher at the College during its decline and near-collapse, from 1974 to 1978, omissions from the Annals make me wonder if the writers wanted to hide something. For instance, although the College was (just) alive and living in 1978, there is not one word recorded for the year 1978 in these, the official, compulsory, lovingly-kept Annals of the College.

What was it like at the College in the late 1970s? To quote the Hon. Mr Justice Milne, it was like ‘a calm in a teacup.’ Outside it was like a swirling ocean of storms with occasional patches of calm scudding by, and yet, for that turbulent year, 1978, nothing was recorded; not one word.

It makes me wonder what the Principal, Bro. Ephrem, knew at the end of 1977? His last words in the Annals are, ‘1 December Classes closed. Chapel assembly: 11.00 a.m. 2 December Academic Year finished for Staff.’ Why did he write not another word in the Annals for the next 365 days?

The average number of pages used in the Annals per year, up to then, was six; suddenly, the year 1977 used up 62 pages. The Annals previously comprised handwriting and, very rarely, press clippings and photographs – they were kept in boxes or other scrapbooks specifically for them. In 1977 Bro. Ephrem made the Annals into a scrapbook – 62 pages of scrapbook, and then went on to write nothing in it for 1978. I can only wonder.

But, whatever the reason for this, the belief in 1977 was that the College was 100 years old. This belief had held sway until Old Boy, Peter Payne, raised the point at the College in about 1976, that 1877 was incorrect. His father was archivist at the Natal Society Library and had discovered the two extra years in old copies of “The Natal Witness” stored in the Library. As it was so close to the “Centenary” celebrations planned for 1977, Payne’s startling information was

brushed aside with the intention that it would be attended to in 1978. But, since there was the virtual collapse of the College in 1978, the dating information was forgotten until Mike Landers and Peter Payne raised it with me in August 2001.

This, coupled with references in Jenny G Duckworth's "St Mary's Story" to a school in Bishop Jolivet's house dating earlier than 1877 (which I suspected was really St Charles – even if in another form) set me on a hunt at the Natal Society Library and a scamper through the 1877, 1876 and 1875 July and January pages of "The Natal Witness" (in that order) to find the items reproduced above. Thank you, Mike Landers and Peter Payne, and "The Natal Witness". This is supposed to be a 125th Anniversary Book, in 2002. Instead, it's actually the College's 127th. Sorry! Irrespective of the date, this is an attempt to write the history of the College within a survey of where it is just now.

Histories are notoriously unreadable. From the outset, I have tried to make this one as user-friendly as possible by clearly marking the year in question, and by including as many illustrations with informative captions as possible. People love pictures and captions; they are all dated and are fascinating.

The use of the apostrophe in the College's name has interested me. I believe it should be the cumbersome "St Charles's College", but the 19th century way of attaching an apostrophe after a name ending in "s" meant it was never "Charles's" – just "St Charles' College". In the 1970s the apostrophe was dropped at the College, and thus it has been too, in the pages which follow. For references prior to 1970, I have included the apostrophe; from 1970 on, I have dropped it. I have restrained myself from the strange use of the fully-expanded "Saint Charles College," favoured by Bro. Ephrem in the 1970s.

From January 1997, classes right through all schools became referred to as "Grades" – thus "Grade 12" is "Matric" or "Std X". One of the Matric boys said to me in 1999 that the term "Grade 12" did nothing for him; I couldn't agree more. Thus, nomenclature in this book follows the national norm up to Grade 11 (Std IX), but the final year of schooling I distinguish as "Matric," as we do in "The Saint" at the College.

Being a stickler for the use of correct grammar and punctuation, I cannot resist a comment on the Boarders' clothes list in the 1928 Prospectus. It lists the last items required by Boarders as 'Two Soiled Linen Bags'; I suppose they were needed for the laundry to practice on – and I thought that the absence of hyphens in compound adjectives was a current problem. Now, why didn't Bro. Walter put in a hyphen with his black pen when it was needed?

The text which follows would not have been possible were it not for the contributions of Messrs Alan Fourie, Ronnie Kuhn, Adrian King, Wessel Dirksen, Andrew Dickason, Graham Stewart-Burger and Guy Bestel.

Ron Friedericksen was especially helpful in winking important St Charles College records out of Bro. Martin at the Marist Provincialate in Johannesburg. Of course, the Provincialate was very generous in letting them out, particularly as they are about to be shipped to Nairobi and may, sadly, never be seen in Pietermaritzburg again, where they obviously belong.

Old Boys and past and present members of staff have been very helpful. Tommy and John Vogel, came forward with anecdotes, as did Neil Davis and José AA de Charmoy. Leon Nicholson brought me the two oldest photographs in this book of his father. Vincent Haynes, Desmond Andersson, Stan Mack, Jack Edmonds, Mike Landers, Shaun Quin, Peter and David Rorke, Richard O'Brien, Wayne Beaumont, Wayne Naidoo, Malcolm Heritage, Stewart Bradford, Dave Karlsen, Mesdames Anna Shaw, Patsy Church, Sue Rabie, Barbara Thorpe, Janet de Croes, Glenda Frangs, and Glenn Flanagan have been invaluable. Casey Boyd has made a difference to the look of this book. Maritzburg College Old Boy, Edric Pascoe, whose father, also Edric, allowed me to reproduce his father's medal for batting. Roy Oosthuizen of City Printing Works unearthed St Charles copper printing blocks. Vinesh Naidoo and Elijah Dumakude have assisted with the production, and Prof. Denis Brothers has been a close scrutineer of this text, for which I thank him, as well as everyone above.

Is this, therefore, a definitive account of the past 127 years of St Charles College? Not really; such a goal is probably impossible. History writers have

biased views; the mere fact that they look at material from the past gives their writing a skewed view. For recent material, they will probably never get their hands on everything which is available. For the period 1875 to 1978, this is, nevertheless, about as comprehensive as it is likely to get, given the material, the Annals and Old Boy anecdotes, from which I worked. The post-1978 period is based on press cuttings, College magazines and copies of "The Saint". This accounts for stylistic differences between Chapters 1 and 2, and Chapter 3.

I asked Old Boys to come forward with anecdotal material. A small number did. Only one responded to my "Natal Witness" letter requesting information. If there is something I have left out, please let me know as there will be revisions of this book in years to come; your concerns will be attended to then.

Meanwhile, enjoy what is here, now.



St Charles is a great College. It has a huge, determined heart beating in that light blue shirt behind the St Charles badge.

This determined spirit drove Bishop Charles Jolivet in 1875.

It drove Bro. Macartin to raise money for the College's Chapel in the late 1950s.

It drove Des White and his loyal group of Old Boys in 1978.

It was what drove the St Charles College First XV to beat Durban High School in 1998.

It drove St Charles to become South African Schools' Basketball champions, also in 1998.

This College has an ineffable spirit to succeed.

St Charles has been knocked down in the past and has risen up again. It is for this reason that the title of this book, "Together, standing tall," comes from a phrase in the most recent St Charles College Song, "Come the day". The full words are reproduced on page 223. And it's for this reason, because of a determination to succeed, that this song exists at all.

To the Board of Governors and Staff, thank you for giving me the honour of being part of St Charles's history in this way.

To the Old Boys, Boys, Staff and Governors of St Charles: you are products of this past. It is a solid foundation. Use it to build your College to even greater heights as you move forwards, with relevant education, in our beautiful country.

Justin C Waldman

Old Boys' Weekend – Friday, 7 June 2002

BELOW 2001 DELALLE BOYS TOGETHER, STANDING TALL

Johan Hjarpe, Giovanni Velliama, Keith Moore, Ross McArthur, Dennis Werner, Lyle Brady, Michael Avery, Simon Lithgow, Andrew Lorentz, Andrew Everson, Guy Blaylock, and pointing the way forward and upward, Nkosinathi Simelane.

